

NEWS ROUNDUP

Oil firm failed to equip sick bay

Relatives of a critically ill man reacted angrily yesterday after Shell, the oil company, was fined £500 after admitting it failed to provide first aid equipment on a North Sea gas production platform. Mr William Chalk, aged 40, is in a coma in hospital after suffering a heart attack while working in the Sean Field, 70 miles off Lowestoft, last June. Another worker tried to resuscitate him but there was no oxygen respirator in the sick bay.

After the hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, Mr Chalk's mother, Mrs Ivy Chalk, said: "We're devastated. The fine should have run into thousands."

Charge dropped

A man accused of murdering a British soldier had the charge dropped after he pleaded guilty at Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday to a firearms offence.

Michael Joseph Herron, aged 19, of Belleek, Co Fermanagh, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to enable another person to endanger life.

Mr Kenneth Mills, for the prosecution, said a charge of murdering Lance Corporal Thomas Hewitt, of the Royal Green Jackets, in July last year, would not be proceeded with. Herron will be sentenced next Tuesday.

Solicitor banned

A solicitor, Richard Weston, aged 43, of Taunton, Somerset, was fined £300 and banned for six months at Glastonbury, Somerset, yesterday for being in charge of a car with excess alcohol.

Weston, who led the fight to keep Ian Botham at Somerset Cricket Club, had had his case twice moved to different courts. Magistrates ordered his arrest after he failed to appear in court when he was finally convicted.

The Solicitors' Complaint Bureau said it would be looking into Weston's future.

Ulster law protest

A delegation of lawyers from the Law Society of Northern Ireland are to lobby peers today over the lack of effective law reform machinery in the province compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. They are pressing for the work of the Government's law reform body, the Law Commission for England and Wales, to be extended to Northern Ireland.

Mr Brian Garrett, chairman of the society's parliamentary and law reform committee, said: "The society regards the absence of any statutory and independent law reform machinery as a serious deficiency." Law reform in Ulster chiefly consisted of "adopting legislative provisions parallel to those already adopted in Great Britain but without adequate consideration of the issues at the initial stages".

Benefits challenge

Judgement was reserved in the High Court yesterday on a challenge by a coalition of London boroughs and advice and pressure groups that the Government had mishandled the supplementary benefits system to the point of virtual collapse in many areas of London.

The coalition asked for court declarations that the law required Department of Health and Social Security adjudication officers to consider claims within 14 days.

For the DHSS it was said that the system had been operated according to law and no declarations should be made.

Operation on screen

Millions of television viewers will see a woman have a hysterectomy operation next week.

Mrs Barbara Bromilow, aged 40, of Anfield, Liverpool, will be seen in the operating theatre of the Royal Liverpool Hospital by viewers of the BBC's live *Hospital Watch* programme, which will give daily reports of her progress from admission on Monday and coverage of her operation, scheduled for the Thursday.

Mrs Bromilow said yesterday: "I am not being courageous. I just want people to overcome their fears."

Death raid verdict

Three men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of taking part in a raid on the Sir John Soane's Museum, central London, during which police shot dead an armed robber.

But the jury has not yet reached verdicts on the dead man's younger brother, George Bergin, aged 23, of Ealing, west London, who has denied conspiracy to rob and possessing a firearm.

William McSkimming, aged 27, address unknown, and Lee Francis, aged 22, of Northolt, west London, were found guilty of plotting to rob the museum of paintings worth more than £1 million. Derek Smith, aged 22, of Northolt, was convicted of possessing a firearm.

Russians out of world chess fight

From Raymond Keene, Saint John, Canada

The sixth round of the world chess qualifying tournament in Saint John saw the elimination of two Soviet grandmasters, Rafael Vaganian and Valery Salov.

Their opponents, Lajos Portisch, of Hungary, and Jan Timman, of the Netherlands, now join the British grandmasters Nigel Short and Jon Speelman in the quarter finals.

The final game between Portisch and Vaganian ended in a draw after Portisch had gained a pawn by a neat combination.

The first five games between Timman and Salov had been drawn but in the vital sixth the Dutch grandmaster completely outmanoeuvred his young opponent and captured several pawns. Salov resigned the game and the match when faced with catastrophe.

strophic material losses.

The sixth game between the great veteran Victor Korchnoi (Switzerland) and the young Icelandic Johann Hjartarson ended in an overwhelming win for Korchnoi, who utterly paralysed his opponent's position in a brief space of time. Hjartarson was spectacularly helpless when he resigned.

This match, as well as the Spraggett-Sokolov match, has ended in a 3-3 tie and must be resolved by two play off games.

Korchnoi-Hjartarson
1 N3+ 16- 14 B2+ 16-
2 0-4 16- 15 N3+ 16-
3 0-4 16- 16 B2+ 16-
4 0-4 16- 17 B2+ 16-
5 0-4 16- 18 N4+ 16-
6 0-4 16- 19 N4+ 16-
7 0-4 16- 20 N4+ 16-
8 0-4 16- 21 B2+ 16-
9 0-4 16- 22 B2+ 16-
10 0-4 16- 23 0-4 16-
11 0-4 16- 24 0-4 16-
12 0-4 16- 25 N4+ 16-
13 0-4 16- 26 0-4

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Reactor test prompts evacuation by villagers

Inhabitants of three villages near the Trawsfynydd power station in Gwynedd yesterday announced plans to evacuate the area before next week's planned test to shut down the reactor, despite renewed safety assurances given by government scientists and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The top-ranking scientists met protesters from Gwynedd for the first time at the House of Commons. The opposition included local politicians, a farmer, teacher, clergyman and local GP.

Mr Tom Kitt, the Irish MP with the ruling Fianna Fail party, told the scientists that the test, planned for February 12, was "repugnant" to the Irish people, many of whom live only 100 miles from the reactor.

He confirmed that the Irish government was exploring methods of stopping the test through the British or European courts.

Two inspectors from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate were yesterday carrying out further examinations at the site before a decision is taken on granting permission to the CEBG, which still has to confirm the date.

One of the protesters was Mrs Avel Irene, who described the evacuation plans to the scientists. "Buses have been booked and all children from the three surrounding villages will be taken elsewhere. We no longer have any trust in the CEBG because nobody will give a 100 per cent guarantee of safety", she said.

Gwynedd County Council votes tomorrow on closing all schools in the county during the test, in which the gas coolant circulators will be cut off for eight hours. This is to test the claim that the reactor can be shut down safely if the cooling system fails.

Greater Manchester is tomorrow carrying out a nuclear disaster exercise based at Bury Town Hall in response to the Trawsfynydd test.

The exercise, code-named Spring Mist, will be conducted under the auspices of fire and civil defence officers with all-party political support.

All councils within 100 miles of Trawsfynydd have been circulated with details of the Bury exercise and some are sending observers.

Mr Sean Rogers, chairman of Greater Manchester's emergency planning committee, said: "I am not pro or anti-nuclear - just nervous. We just haven't got the capacity to cope with a catastrophe of the kind which hit Chernobyl if something goes wrong."

He added that the authority is considering action to stop the test.

Dr Brian Edmundson, director of the CEBG's nuclear co-ordinating

group, said yesterday that similar tests had been undertaken successfully at Hunterston in 1982 and Calderhall four years later.

He added: "Concern is misplaced. I am astonished that people have been saying there is not a 100 per cent guarantee. I can give that assurance."

"If the test goes ahead, that will be because it has been shown to be 100 per cent safe."

Dr Edmundson, who co-wrote the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Chernobyl, said comparisons were misleading. "Chernobyl is water-cooled, with pressure tubes. This is a gas-cooled reactor in a large pressure vessel."

"The feature which led to the power excursion that destroyed the reactor was a special feature of the Chernobyl reactor."

"Faults occur on any power station, and nuclear ones are no

different, but there is defence in depth which looks after this."

"There is a multiplicity of safety systems based on different principles and the safety systems are all duplicated."

"We have a continuing job to demonstrate the full safety features of the plant, whenever we can and I think that is something the public would require of us."

Mr Eddy Ryder, chief inspector of the NII, said: "To technical people, it is really hard to understand the concern of the local people."

"The test is safe in principle because there is a big margin between any normal operating limits and any harm or disaster."

"If we thought there was genuine technical reason for it not going ahead, we would not let it go ahead. It is convenient to do it at Trawsfynydd because there is a shutdown coming up."

London and Bonn wrestle with budget for Europe

By Richard Owen in Brussels and Andrew McEwen in London

Britain and West Germany were deadlocked last night on the central issues blocking agreement on the EEC budget, but there were signs of intensive efforts to achieve a breakthrough.

After an Anglo-German summit in London and a meeting of the 12 foreign ministers in Brussels, cautious optimism was being expressed in the Belgian capital. It was not reflected in London, however, where officials continued to emphasize the difficulties.

Both Mrs Thatcher and the West German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, said after a two and a half hour meeting in Brussels that they were striving to avoid the failure of next week's extraordinary European Council on farm spending.

Later, the West German cabinet met to consider further German concessions, while British officials in Brussels indicated that Britain, too, was prepared to "do what it can to make a package deal possible".

Britain could meet some German concerns over cereal production, but diplomats emphasized that Britain and Germany still had deep differences over agriculture. "We are approaching the endgame", one British official said.

Although Mrs Thatcher's meeting with Chancellor Kohl produced no breakthrough on the main issues - agriculture and the budget - it cleared an important related hurdle. German sources said that the two reached a confidential deal on the EEC's "structural funds", which redistribute wealth

from rich to poor countries through regional aid schemes.

The agreement probably removes the snare which was most likely to trap any deal that might emerge from Brussels next week. It had been feared that the southern countries would block agreement if they did not obtain a doubling of the structural funds.

The Downing Street meeting also produced signs that both leaders were making a serious attempt to overcome what Mrs Thatcher described as "substantial areas of disagreement".

Chancellor Kohl, making the best of what he confessed was very limited optimism, said: "I leave London in the conviction that we both want Brussels to be a success."

Mrs Thatcher said: "If we do not succeed this time, it is difficult to see why we would be more likely to succeed in Hannover", where the Council will next meet in June, at the end of the German presidency of the EEC.

Both leaders were anxious to dispel impressions that they have little time for each other. The Chancellor spoke of Mrs Thatcher's "usual charm", and she replied: "Charm may be putting it a little bit high - but goodwill, yes!"

After the meeting, Britain and West Germany remained far apart on three of the four main issues preventing agreement on the EEC budget.

Mrs Thatcher said the foreign ministers had reached substantial agreement in Brussels on a scheme to take some agricultural land out of production.



Chancellor Kohl and Mrs Thatcher trying to reach agreement (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Scottish Labour MPs' leader resigns

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A senior Labour backbencher yesterday resigned as convener of the party's group of 50 Scottish MPs over differences with Mr Neil Kinnock about tactics towards the introduction of the poll tax north of the border.

Mr Kinnock had given a warning to the Labour local government conference in Edinburgh last weekend against breaking the law in opposition to the charge.

But Mr Dick Douglas, MP for Dunfermline West, who is on the centre right of the party, said that he did not go along with the leadership line.

He said yesterday: "I will not distance myself from people who will not or who cannot pay that tax. To adopt

the stance taken by the leadership is an error of judgement."

Mr Douglas's resignation was seen by some MPs as evidence of growing tension between the leadership and the Scottish contingent.

Scotland again voted overwhelmingly for Labour at the last election, and Scottish MPs are under huge local pressure to be seen to be doing more to stand up to the Government, and feel they have to do so to beat off the nationalist challenge.

Mr Douglas wrote his letter of resignation to the Scottish group last night.

He said: "I do not wish my personal stance on the issue to be restrained or to be in

conflict with the position of convener by taking a line which is in opposition to that promulgated by the party leadership."

Meanwhile, Mr Tony Benn, Mr Kinnock's most likely far left challenger in any leadership contest this year, implied that the leadership was giving inadequate support to the nurses and others involved in industrial disputes.

Mr Kinnock said at the weekend that ministers were praying for their opponents to advocate breaking the law to shift the spotlight from their "deliberate injustice".

In his second attack on the performance of the leadership in four days, Mr Benn, MP for Chesterfield, said Labour

could disappear if it placed its confidence in the hands of advertising men or pollsters.

He said that failure to support workers when they most needed it explained why Labour's electoral strength had slowly drained away.

Mr Kinnock is to visit the Middle East later this month and will support attempts to establish an international peace conference.

He will be fulfilling a long-standing commitment undertaken well before the recent outbreak of violence in the occupied territories. He will visit trouble spots on both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and is expected to voice concern about the Israeli government's use of beatings

Airliner skims trees as engine fails on takeoff

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A Continental Airlines Boeing 747 with 425 passengers and 20 crew on board flew within feet of tree tops in Sussex as the captain struggled to gain height after an engine failure on take off.

A major accident alert was called at Gatwick after the pilot of Flight CO 31 bound for Miami reported the failure. As the aircraft, loaded with more than 100 tons of fuel, was buffeted by strong winds witnesses reported smoke from one engine and thought it had hit trees.

But the pilot managed to dump enough fuel and gradually gained height, eventually dropping more fuel over the English Channel before landing safely at Gatwick. Last June the same aircraft was struck by lightning four times on take off from Gatwick.

The latest incident was considered so serious that the Department of Transport's accident investigation branch began a full scale investigation. It took away the flight recorder to establish how low it flew but established rapidly that the initial problem was a compressor stall in the engine.

Continental Airlines said last night: "The aircraft did not hit trees. It may have bent a few because of the down-draught from its engines."

Since it was taken over by the Texas Air conglomerate a couple of years ago, Continental has become the country's most troubled airline, notorious for chaotic service (Charles Bremner writes from New York). More serious, the quality of its pilots has been widely criticized since the airline broke a strike and recruited non-union staff.

Seamen's union's last fling

By David Sapsed

The country-wide ferry strike could be the last fling of the National Union of Seamen, an organization whose decline in fortunes and power has mirrored that of the once-mighty British merchant fleet.

Yesterday, as seamen walked off the job in a dozen British ports, the union was scheduled to begin two days of talks over a possible merger with the National Union of Railwaymen.

The strike meant a postponement, but only until the near future, of those discussions by a union that has seen its seagoing membership drop from 30,000 to 20,000 in little more than a decade.

Its general secretary, Mr Sam McCluskie, has been able to cock a snook at court injunctions obtained by ferry operators against union action

simply because, as he admits, the union has no funds to be sequestered and no money to pay fines.

Even the 161 union members employed by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, whose strike led to the present dispute, have not received any strike pay since they stopped work on December 29.

"We have no money for strike pay. We are paying our bills, but that is about all", an NUS official admitted.

The union did not achieve its aim on Tuesday of getting 6,000 members to strike on 55 ferries. Nevertheless, the union said it was "very pleased" by the response of its members, who have more than the relatively minor industrial skirmish in the Irish Sea to bother about.

Most importantly, P&O

European Ferries, principle operators out of the pivotal port of Dover, has recently put forward plans to cut crew ratios, which will result in 400 out of 2,000 seamen being dismissed. The company also wants to reduce its complement of officers from about 600 to just over 400 on services from Dover to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge.

Sealink, too, has fired the opening shots in what the union sees as a battle over staff cuts: it has proposed radical crew reductions on two freight ferries operating out of Dover.

The NUS describes the dispute as "the last straw in a decade that has seen nearly every shipping company sack British seafarers in favour of low-cost Third World crews, in an attempt to whittle away hard-won increases in wages and conditions".

Scargill in second vote defeat

By Roland Radd

Mr Arthur Scargill suffered a second blow within 24 hours when delegates at a special one-day National Union of Mineworkers conference yesterday voted to ballot the membership on whether to continue the union's four-month overtime ban.

After rejecting Mr Scargill's plea to step up the overtime ban delegates voted by 56 to 53 for a ballot. If miners vote in favour, the executive will interpret how the industrial action should be continued.

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New research council head may resign

By David Walker

The newly-appointed chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council is threatening to resign unless it reconsiders a decision to bow to Treasury pressure and move out of London.

Professor Peter Hall, a planning specialist who is widely credited with inventing the Enterprise Zone concept, told *The Times* yesterday that he was "considering his position" until a further meeting of the ESRC's governing council was convened. He had been due to take up his full-time appointment in May.

The Treasury had said the ESRC must move to Swindon to share an office block with the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Councils warned of financial chaos

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Procrastination by Labour council leaders in London has stored up a £350 million gap between their spending and revenues, Mr Howard Davies, controller of the Audit Commission for local authorities, said yesterday.

That warning from an official watchdog about impending financial crisis in inner London will alarm Whitehall officials and ministers as they consider the future of the Inner London Education Authority.

If the authority is abolished, the cost of schooling will fall directly on councils - Camden, Islington, Southwark, Hackney, Lambeth, Brent, Haringey and Lewisham - some of which are already in a parlous financial condition. The Audit Commission estimates that they will have to cut their workforces by several thousand within the next 12 to 18 months if they are to avoid defaulting on interest and loan repayments.

Mr Davies, a former Treasury official, repeated warnings a year ago by the

commission that London local government was in fundamental financial chaos. Mr John Banham, the then Audit Controller, who has since become director general of the Confederation of British Industry, issued a strongly worded paper comparing the physical state of inner London to the Bronx in New York and giving warning of a financial crisis unless spending were cut.

Mr Davies said that little had changed except that the gap had again been papered over by means of "creative accountancy".

That has involved, in certain cases, selling town hall buildings and using the proceeds to maintain their expenditure. Other schemes involve "deferred purchase" in which they have been able to spend and put off the capital and interest payments to a later year.

Mr Davies said that the day of reckoning was approaching for such schemes. "We hear the voice of sweet reason from the former firebrands,

talking of the vital importance of sound finance. But let no one be in any doubt that the really tough decisions and even more important the implementation of those decisions still lie in the future."

Mr Banham had calculated a £400 million gap between the amount the eight councils were spending and the amount they could afford. Mr Davies said some £50 million had been shaved off that by cuts in spending or gains in efficiency. The remaining £350 million had been found by accounting tricks, such as writing off repair costs on council buildings as a capital item covered by borrowing.

"A further £40 million has been found through a variety of devices - interest rate swaps and the like - which merely put commitments off into the middle distance. And a further rundown in balances, already very low, has provided most of the rest."

He acknowledged that Labour councillors now recognized the scale of their problems.

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King's Cross 'criminal' may be at large

Arson is not ruled out by London Transport

By Rodney Cowton

London Regional Transport yesterday refused to accept that arson could be ruled out as a possible cause of the King's Cross Underground fire on November 18 last year. It demanded that the matter be thoroughly investigated.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, counsel for London Regional Transport and London Underground, told the public inquiry into the disaster which claimed 31 lives that there was evidence that did not permit the possibility of arson being rejected.

"I do not conceal the very serious concern of LRT that an arsonist may be at large with a predilection for starting fires in the Underground."

If the inquiry was minded to

discount the possibility of arson totally, London Underground would expect sufficient evidence to be presented to justify such a conclusion.

He said he did not want the inquiry itself to be diverted into an arson investigation, but the matter should be investigated by the police.

Earlier, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said that although arson could not be ruled out, it seemed unlikely.

Mr Read said the King's Cross fire was unparalleled in the 125-year history of the London Underground. Previously, only two people had died as a consequence of fire in a London Underground station. "It is a record which

speaks for itself. London Underground is a very safe way to travel."

He said the purpose of the inquiry should be to learn whatever lessons there were to ensure that a similar disaster never occurred again.

London Underground did not approach the inquiry in a defensive way and would not try to avoid its responsibilities.

It was possible the court would conclude that the fire might have been extinguished at an early stage by the use of fire extinguishers or waterfog system. He said if there was human failure to use equipment provided on the part of individuals and if a responsibility rested with London

Underground, it would not be shirked.

Since the fire, London Underground had identified over 100 safety tasks to be undertaken, he said. They included a special programme to remove grease from wooden escalators, due to be completed this month. Escalator machine rooms had been cleaned, and wooden skirting boards, balustrades and decks on escalators were to be replaced by metal. This programme would be completed by mid-1989.

A programme to replace all wooden escalators had begun in 1978 and was being implemented at the rate of six escalators a year. Consideration was now being given to accelerating the work.



Victim: Laurence Moran.



Victim: Buddy Khan.



Victim: Bernadette Kearney.

Passengers were led to their deaths in heart of inferno

By Tony Dawe

Several passengers who died in the King's Cross fire were directed from platforms where they would have been safe into the heart of the inferno, the inquiry was told yesterday.

On the second day of his opening statement, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, said many passengers were changing trains at King's Cross and had reached the right platform to continue their journey when they were told to leave the station.

Among those who died was Buddy Khan, aged 22, of Wood Green, north London, who arrived at the station on the Metropolitan line and changed to catch a Piccadilly line train home. Mr Khan, a leading amateur cricketer from Pakistan, who had been in Britain for a year, reached the Piccadilly line platform without incident but was requested to leave it by police and London Underground officers.

He was directed up the Victoria line escalator because the Piccadilly line one was on fire. The Victoria line escalator led into the station ticket hall, which caught the full force of the explosion which followed the fire.

Graham Hall, aged 26, reached the Victoria line plat-

form to travel home to Walthamstow when he was also evacuated on the same escalator into the path of the fire.

Jane Fairley, aged 26, changed trains uneventfully after leaving her job in the City and was on the Victoria line platform awaiting the train home to Highbury and Islington station. Mr Henderson said that she too was evacuated and died in the ticket hall.

Laurence Moran, aged 25, arrived at the station from Paddington on the Metropolitan line and changed trains to catch the Northern line. He was evacuated from the platform and died of asphyxiation close to the ticket hall.

Mr Henderson said the three most seriously injured victims of the fire were all still receiving treatment in University College Hospital. They too had been evacuated from the Victoria line.

The tragedy of these deaths, the inquiry was told, was that immediately after the fire burst into an inferno at 7.46pm on November 18 last year, three trains were stopped on the Victoria line north-bound platform to evacuate passengers.

Mr Henderson said one of the victims, Bernadette Kearney, aged 23, of Acton, west London, should not have been in the station at all. She was heading towards Archway station in north London and normally changed at Tottenham Court Road to take the Northern line passing through King's Cross on the way to her destination.

"From a number of statements by other witnesses on a Northern line train, it appears that the train driver or guard made an announcement saying that passengers must not get off at King's Cross because of the fire. Some passengers mis-understood the message and did get off", Mr Henderson said. Miss Kearney is thought to have been one of them.

Other victims of the disaster included people on a rare visit to London. Jonathan George, in his 20s, had travelled from his home in Leicester by British Rail to St Pancras and was just entering the underground ticket hall when he was overcome by the heat and dense smoke. Philip Marks, aged 55, had been attending a social function at the Savoy Hotel, London, and was passing through King's Cross on his way to catch a coach home to Ringwood, in Hampshire.

Conflict over use of paint

Scientists have produced conflicting reports on the "flash-over" which turned the Underground fire into an inferno.

One factor being investigated is whether a special coating, Proderite B2, applied to the walls and ceilings of the escalator shaft at King's Cross may have contributed to the spread of the fire.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, quoted conflicting reports on Proderite, and said further study was needed, although it appeared that paint had contributed to the rapid spread of the blaze.

Mr Victor Lyon, representing Proderite, said the B2 system was introduced at King's Cross after a fire in the Oxford Circus station. It was not applied by Proderite, but by general painting contractors.

Subsequent tests had shown the B2 system was applied over previous paintwork, perhaps as much as 11 coats of it, which might have been built up on the ceiling since the escalator was installed in 1939.

If the B2 system were applied to a clean surface, it fell into the safest class of coating. It therefore would be the company's case that it could have little or no effect on the rapid spread of the fire.

He said a meeting of experts on January 25 had decided a sub-committee should be formed to decide what further tests were required to determine the cause of the flashover.

Mr Charles Pugh, representing most of the families of those who died in the fire, told the inquiry yesterday that he wanted to play a "constructive and not a recriminatory role" in proceedings.

The inquiry continues today.

Cuban art on the move



The Cuban artist Manuel Mendive painting a dancer, Luz Maria Collazo, during a show at Liberty, the London department store, yesterday. The dancer, painted all over, moves to the sound of drumbeat in an exhibition of static and living art which is going to be repeated at the Institute of Contemporary Arts on Thursday and Friday (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

Boom in long-haul holidays

By Mark Ellis

A trade war in the lucrative market of long-haul destinations for adventure-seeking travellers is predicted after one of Britain's leading tour operators shelved plans to sell package holidays to Europe next year.

Tour operators believe the relative strength of the pound and a greater choice of destinations will encourage more Britons than ever to travel to the United States, the Caribbean and Far East.

Mr Sidney Perez, chairman

of the tour operators' study group, said that an increase in charter flights was cutting costs even further.

An estimated 13 million people will take package holidays this year, mostly to Mediterranean resorts in Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, North Africa and Malta. However, the number of tourists seeking destinations further afield are expected to increase by up to 30 per cent.

The most popular long-haul destination for families is

likely to be Florida where many operators include a trip to Disneyworld, but other parts of the US, Caribbean, India, Thailand and China are expected to draw more British tourists.

On Monday, Thomas Cook announced it was shelving its 40,000 package holidays in Europe to concentrate on long-haul destinations, which account for 25,000 holidays a year.

Holidays in the current brochure will be honoured.

Portfolio Winner used a computer

The winner of the daily £4,000 Portfolio prize is using a home computer program to increase her chances of hitting the jackpot in the new Accumulator competition.

Mrs Kungunde Cahill, aged 30, a housewife, of Plymouth, Devon, said: "I have been playing the Portfolio competition for one and a half years and the Accumulator is a double incentive to play it."

"I have written a computer program for my home computer to make it more efficient to play. The program does the adding up to give my results and adds to the fun of playing the competition."

German-born Mrs Cahill, who was a teacher before she moved to Devon with her husband, who is a research scientist, said she would be spending her windfall decorating their new home and buying furniture.

The £32,000 Accumulator prize has still to be won.



Mrs Kungunde Cahill: a program for success.

Shooting club told to leave

A shooting club near Hungerford, the Berkshire town where a gunman massacred 14 people, must leave the range it has used for 20 years.

The owner of the range, at Hampstead Norreys, has told Newbury Pistol and Rifle Shooting Club to leave.

Call for spot checks on car servicing

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

More anonymous spot checks on garages are needed to improve the low standard of car servicing, the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* said yesterday.

A survey of garages throughout the country by *Which?* and trading standards officers discovered that fewer than a fifth of the cars were correctly serviced.

Miss Sue Leggate, deputy editor of the magazine, said

yesterday: "This is totally unacceptable. The need to act on garage servicing is as pressing and important as the need to act on rogue second-hand cars."

Garages, car manufacturers and trade associations are criticized by the Consumers' Association for not checking enough cars before and after they are serviced.

Car manufacturers find spot checks on service bays expen-

sive and carry them out infrequently. In spite of the industry carrying out 40 million servicing jobs on cars each year, new car dealers are checked less than once a month. Most are never monitored.

Ford engineers check one routine service by every dealer every three months, and monitor a similar number of new cars before delivery.

Peugeot Talbot announced

yesterday that the Automobile Association is to make two checks each year at every dealer in a bid to attempt to improve standards. Mr Neil Marshall, of the Motor Agents' Association (MAA), said: "There is an element of spurious research in the *Which?* report which is neither scientific nor borne out by independent research. The level of justifiable complaint against garages is very small."

'Action could halt 40% of cot deaths'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Action before birth could prevent many of Britain's 1,300 annual cot deaths, according to a child health specialist.

Up to four out of 10 such tragedies could be avoided if mothers were given advice about the timing of their pregnancies and the health risks to their babies of smoking, drug-taking and other factors, Dr Jean Golding, of Bristol University, says.

She believes that the focus of medical attention on cot deaths, also known as sudden infant death syndrome may have been misdirected to the time when they are at most risk of dying suddenly and unexpectedly.

"Yet the epidemiological features are mainly those which can have had their effects long before the child was born", she says in an editorial in this month's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

Most cot deaths occur between the second and fifth months of life, with a peak between 10 and 14 weeks of age.

Typically, the babies are found dead in their cots, with no evidence to suggest a cause of death.

Post-mortem examinations tend to find minimal changes, although there are often signs of mild respiratory or gastrointestinal infection.

Features of many cases, however, are that the mothers are younger than average, that the more children there are in the family, the higher the risk, and that children of unmarried mothers are at increased risk, as are children of social classes IV and V.

Dr Golding, Wellcome senior lecturer at the university's department of child health, says studies have shown that mothers who smoke throughout pregnancy are much more likely to have a cot death baby.

There are also links with maternal infections in pregnancy. "Infants of mothers who have taken barbiturates medicinally are also at increased risk and there is some evidence that mothers who

have had a low blood pressure during pregnancy, especially those who have had a fall in blood pressure, are more likely to have a cot death SIDS infant."

It is quite feasible to identify in early infancy those babies at high risk but methods of protecting them, such as increased health visitor contact and regular weighing, have failed to convince specialists of their value.

"It is equally feasible that we should consider interventions at a much earlier stage and consider, for example, advice to mothers on the optimum times to conceive and plan their pregnancies."

"It is possible that fewer cases would occur if mothers were persuaded to delay conception until they had reached the age of 25 or more, spaced their pregnancies and did not smoke or take illegal drugs."

"It has been calculated that 40 per cent of the present cases of cot deaths in Britain might be prevented using such a strategy", she says.

Carrington to join Christie's

Lord Carrington is to become chairman of Christie's International after his retirement as Secretary-General of Nato on June 30, it was announced yesterday.

He will succeed Mr Jo Floyd, who has been chairman for the past 12 years.

The appointment was seen as a powerful counter-force to Lord Gowrie, the British Chairman of Sotheby's. Both are former Cabinet ministers with access to Downing Street.

Even Lord Gowrie, Lord Carrington's great rival-to-be, expressed approval. "It is an honour for the industry - although I must admit, something of a nuisance."

"We are old friends, and from now on I will have to watch my tongue when I speak to him about work. He will make a splendid friend and rival."

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland

Art Market Correspondent

The appointment fuelled speculation about the firm's future. Lord Carrington will be aged 69 when he takes over on July 1, three years older than the man he succeeds.

One theory was that Lord Carrington will act as a stop-gap chairman, while a younger man is primed for the post.

"It takes five or six years to know all the tricks of the trade", one specialist said. "By the time that's up he will be thinking of retiring."

There was also speculation that Lord Carrington was being brought in to steer the company through a takeover. With his experience in Cab-

net, and at both Nato and the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he is chairman of the trustees, he is the perfect diplomat.

Speaking from Brussels yesterday, Lord Carrington said he was looking forward to taking up his new post, although he has little time to think about it now. "I am working flat out here, with the Nato summit coming off and endless meetings, not to mention my farewell tour around 16 countries."

He said he and his family had done business with Christie's over a number of decades. "My family chose

probably the worst moment to sell an enormous amount of stuff in 1931 - the lowest part of the slump".

He and his wife collect watercolours and eighteenth century furniture.

Mr Floyd had postponed his retirement after the resignation of his prospective heir, Mr David Bathurst, after a scandal involving the false reporting of a New York sale results.

In response to speculation that he will now relinquish his sizable shareholding, Mr Floyd said: "There are no plans for either me or my family to sell any of our shares."

The man tipped as the new chairman at the V&A is Sir Michael Butler, deputy chairman of the museum's trustees.

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February 2 1988

PARLIAMENT

Thatcher refuses to give pledge on nurses' pay

The Prime Minister said that the Government had never undertaken to fund a nurses' pay award before knowing what that award was.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was challenged three times by Mr. Neil Kinnock and again by other MPs to undertake that the pay award would be fully funded.

The last Labour Government, she said, had used a price and income policy to depress nurses' pay.

Mr. Iwan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn, Plaid Cymru) referred the Prime Minister to a report that district nurses in his constituency were spending their free time organizing fund-raising activities to buy medical equipment for patients at home.

Did that not demonstrate to the Government that, far from moonlighting as Mr. Norman Tebbit suggested, nurses cared about cuts in the health service?

Would the Prime Minister give an assurance that the nurses pay award to be announced by the pay review body would be funded in full by the Government with no strings attached?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had no doubt that the nurses in Mr. Jones' constituency did extremely well and were carrying out their duties to their patients. The revenue provision to the health service in his constituency—(Labour protests)—Oh yes, here we go with the facts. How they hate them.

In 1978-79, provision had been £19 million. In 1988-89 it was £58.1 million, an increase in real terms of 45 per cent (Conservative cheers).

Mr. Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) asked the Prime Minister to commend those nurses who would stay at their posts tomorrow and do their duty. To suggest that the service would not gravely damage patient care was dangerous nonsense.

Mrs Thatcher said that the strike would gravely damage patients.

Mr. Andrew Faulds (Warley East, Lab.) Your policies have

HEALTH

Mrs Thatcher said that the strike would lengthen waiting lists. About £25 million had been specially allocated to get them down and there was a further £20 million to come. The strike would lengthen them and increase the burden on nurses who would not dream of striking because they would not desert their patients.

Mr. Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, said that Mr. Trevor Clay, the general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, had left a meeting with Mr. John Moore, the Secretary of State for Health, with the strong impression that this year's pay award for nurses would be fully funded by the Government.

"Was that impression accurate? Yes or No."

Mrs Thatcher said that a statement had since been issued by the Royal College of Nursing. The position was as follows: implementation of the pay review body awards came under an undertaking given by Lord Carr when he was a minister in the Commons.

It applied to the top salary review body, and those for the Armed Forces, doctors and dentists. The Government would not modify their recommendations unless there was clear and compelling reason to do so. That was quite different from funding their implementation.

The press statement issued later by the Royal College of Nursing said (interruption) There are four paragraphs. I am quite happy to read out the whole lot—(Mr. Faulds: Yes or No.) The press release said—(interruption) I had better read out the whole lot.

The release said that at the meeting between the Royal College of Nursing and the Secretary of State, Mr. Moore had said

clearly that the nurses pay award would be fully implemented unless there were clear and compelling reasons for the Government not to do so.

This was a phrase which had been used in the past when the awards had been interfered with. The Royal College of Nursing did not believe there could be any clear or compelling reason for not implementing or for under funding the award.

Mr. Kinnock: Given the number of nurses leaving the wide-spread dissatisfaction and the wide public support for nurses, and for funding their award, what in her opinion would be clear and compelling reasons for not funding the nurses properly?

Mrs Thatcher: We stand by the comments and remarks and the traditional practice we have adhered to.

The pledge given by Lord Carr, the practices to which this Government has adhered, are as those which led to increases in nurses pay of the order of 30 per cent in real terms, in contrast to the Government's record over the five pay years 1974 to 1979. They cut nurses pay in real terms in four of those years.

Mr. Kinnock: Will she be absolutely clear? Is she saying to the nurses today that she will not offer an undertaking to fund fully—just as she has never given proper and full funding to the nurses' pay award this year?

Mrs Thatcher: He has asked this question in different terms three times. The answer is the same. We have never undertaken to fund in full a pay award before we know what it is, and what the structure is.

Nevertheless, our total record on nurses' pay is absolutely excellent.

She added that a ward sister maximum based on under Labour received £4,500 and now received £12,000, as a result of the Government's policy.

Mr. Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C): Mr. Trevor Clay (general secretary of the RCN) said that Royal College of Nursing members are being manipulated and intimidated by extreme left-wingers (Labour laughter and protests).

Nurses' strike will lengthen waiting lists and gravely damage hospital patients' interests

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Trouble with the Valkyrie tendency

The possible repeal of legislation that prohibits the employment of women below ground was the subject of sharp exchanges during question time in the Commons.

Mr. Allan Rogers (Rhondda, Lab.) said that Labour MPs had great fears that this might happen, in view of the Prime Minister's espousal of Victorian values.

Mr. Patrick Nichols, Under Secretary of State for Employment (above), said that responses to a consultative

document on this subject were awaited. But he found it difficult to understand why Mr. Rogers wanted to deny women the opportunities he was prepared to concede to men.

Miss Joan Walley (Stoke-on-Trent North, Lab.) wanted an assurance that women would not be required to work in areas where their health could be substantially at risk.

Mr. Nichols said that it was necessary to retain certain legislation because of "the particular health situation of women".

Mr. Eric Forth (Mid-Worcestershire, C) said that Labour MPs were showing that all their previous posturing in favour of equality for women was untrue. They wanted to deny to women the opportunities available to men.

Mr. Nichols said that nobody could be expected to be able to sort out the inconsistencies in Labour policy. He wondered whether Mr. Rogers had cleared his remarks with the Valkyrie tendency in his own party.

Mr. Patrick McLoughlin (Derbyshire West, C) said that women would not be compelled to work underground. Those who applied for jobs underground obviously wanted to work underground.

Mr. Nichols said it was difficult to understand the strange attitude of the Opposition, which first demanded that there should be no discrimination against women, but then said that working underground should be an exclusively male preserve.

Lords vote to keep 'gay clause' in councils Bill

The House of Lords voted decisively to keep clause 23, prohibiting local authorities from promoting homosexuality, in the Local Finance Bill.

At the end of the two-hour debate on the fourth day of the committee stage the clause was approved by 202 votes to 122—Government majority, 80.

After the result was announced, gay rights activists shouted obscenities from the public gallery. Three young

women swung ropes around the rail on the balcony and attempted to climb down into the chamber. One succeeded but was immediately tackled by an official.

The others struggled with attendants before being dragged from the gallery.

The following report of the third day of the committee stage appeared in later editions yesterday.

An amendment to restrict the Government's clause aimed at banning local authorities from promoting homosexuality was rejected by the House of Lords by 166 votes to 111—Government majority, 55.

The amendment, drafted by the Arts Council, specifically excluded material published to serve a literary, artistic, scientific or educational purpose from the scope of clause 23 in the Bill.

A Government amendment that a local authority should not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material intended to promote homosexuality, was agreed without a division.

A later amendment, moved by Lord Pevsner (Lab.), said that there should not be prohibition on the lending of works relating to homosexuality.

It was rejected by 42 votes to 28—Government majority, 14.

Long-term jobless down by 169,000

Long-term unemployment fell by a record 169,000 in the 12 months to last October, Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said during Commons questions.

He planned to meet the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission on February 24 to discuss the new adult training programme, which would offer improved training opportunities to 600,000 people each year.

Mr. Archie Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) said that the total unemployed, long term, was increasing as a proportion of the unemployed. Something must be done about that.

Would the department consider targeting long-term unemployment black spots, even on a pilot basis, reducing national insurance contributions there, to see if that would help?

Mr. Fowler said that these contributions had been reduced for the lower paid, but that was a matter for the Chancellor.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab.) said that many Community Programme providers had called for an increase in the average wage for those on the schemes.

Mr. Fowler said that as from the autumn, people on the adult training programme would be paid a premium.

Mr. Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that Mr. Fowler had been giving complacent assurances. The hard core of long-term unemployed, out of work for more than five years, had trebled in the past three years.

Mr. Fowler said that the Government emphasized that it had accepted the MSC report on compulsion. It was because of the problem with the long-term unemployed that the new adult training programme was being brought in.

'Sales to PLO' investigated

EXPORTS

Allegations that sophisticated short-wave military radios were sold by Rascal Tacticon to the Palestine Liberation Organization with Government knowledge are being investigated.

Mr. Francis Maude, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons that, while he had no evidence from his department's records to suggest that such equipment had been licensed for export to the PLO, if anyone had evidence to the contrary that he would be pleased to see it.

Mr. Brian Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, who had raised the issue, asked for an assurance that there would be a report to the House on the outcome of the investigation.

He also asked for an assurance that there had been no similar instances in the past and there would be none in the future.

There was concern about such equipment reaching the armed forces in South Africa, Argentina, parties to the Gulf War and, particularly, the Contras in Nicaragua.

position of the PLO was as had been stated by Lord Carrington when Foreign Secretary, that the Government did not regard the PLO as a terrorist organization.

Mr. Maude said that the Government would do nothing that would enhance the capability of any element within the PLO to carry out acts of violence. The departments involved in clearing sensitive equipment for export included the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Gerald James (Leicester West, Lab.) asked for an assurance that no arms or other sensitive equipment would go to the PLO with the knowledge and consent of the Government.

Mr. Maude said that there was no evidence from the records to suggest that any such items had gone to the PLO. But there would be an investigation into the allegations because the Government wanted to know exactly what lay behind them.

Mr. Andrew Mackay (Berkshire East, C) said that Rascal had a distinguished record of exporting around the world and they had a clear policy that there

would be no overseas sales without the consent of the Government.

Mr. Maude said that he accepted that.

Mr. James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L) asked what steps were taken to ensure that the destination included in an export application was actually reached. Was the equipment in question lethal or non-lethal?

Mr. Maude said that there were differences in the description of the equipment. It was not possible to have a fool-proof system that made it clear beyond peradventure that items went to the stated destination, but the Government did everything humanly possible to ensure that that was the case.

Mr. Iain Lawrence (Burton, C) asked for an unequivocal assurance that there was no intention by the Government to allow the sale of any arms to the PLO.

Mr. Maude said that the Government would do nothing which would enhance the capability of any element within the PLO to carry out acts of violence.

'Forced jobs' denied

No instructions had been issued to compel people to take jobs in certain London boroughs, as reported in *The Guardian*, Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time.

But he emphasized that the law had always provided that unemployed people might lose their benefit if they refused to take suitable jobs and that that law had been confirmed by the Social Security Act, 1975, passed by the last Labour Government.

He was replying to Mr. Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, who said that *The Guardian* had reported that if an unemployed person in four inner-London boroughs refused a job, his benefit would be withdrawn.

Mr. Fowler said that the story was wrong. There were no pilot schemes in operation or contemplated for those boroughs.

Call for end to search delays

A call for drastic measures to eliminate delays of up to 20 weeks in local authority property search inquiries was made in the Commons last night by Mr. John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire, C).

He said that such delays represented the unacceptable face of municipal socialism. Privatization and computerization should speed the process.

Where a local authority fell down on its obligations and responsibilities to the public in not responding within 14 days, then legislative powers should be taken to enable members of the public or their professional representatives to be able to carry out personal searches.

Mr. Colin Moynihan, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the problem caused widespread concern.

He had considerable sympathy with the ideas proposed by Mr. Heddle, but the Government was awaiting the views of the convening standing committee before deciding whether to take any action.

£7.5m extra for arts

Nearly £7.5 million is to be added to the arts budget next year, Mr. Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, said in a Commons written answer. A further £900,000 will be released by altering cash limits.

Nearly £7,330,000 will be paid to the Inland Revenue in compensation for tax foregone on three works of art accepted in lieu of tax of £100,000 to repair storm damage at the British Museum; and £900,000 will help the Welsh Arts Council to buy the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff.

Fowler's landmark

Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, was congratulated on his fiftieth birthday by his opposite number, Mr. Michael Meacher, during question time in the Commons.

Mr. Meacher said he hoped this important milestone was a step towards Mr. Fowler's early retirement (laughter).

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Meacher for his good wishes, adding that he had always regarded 50 as an age when young people were starting their careers entirely before them.

Kit-Kat fact

Forty Kit-Kat chocolate bars are eaten in Britain every second, Mr. John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said in response to questions that he had discovered that fact during a recent visit to York.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Licensing Bill and Welsh Development Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on Welsh Development Bill; Aids; completion of internal market of the EEC; afforestation in Northern Ireland.

There are not all that many parliamentary by-elections these days—16 in Britain throughout the whole of the last Parliament, and 17 in the Parliament before that. When and where they happen to come in this Parliament will have a critical effect on British politics over the next few years.

That is particularly evident in the case of Liberals and Social Democrats, whether merged or unmerged. But they will not be the only ones who will be affected by by-election luck.

A mid-term swing against the government of the day is taken for granted nowadays. Out of nine by-elections in Conservative-held seats in the last Parliament the Government held on to only four. They kept only three out of seven in the previous Parliament.

These Conservative reverses had certain common features in both parliaments. In neither instance did they lose a seat in the first year after a general election. The principal beneficiaries were not the official Opposition, but the Alliance: Labour won only one seat from the Conservatives in each Parliament. And the mid-term setbacks did not prevent the Conservatives winning massive victories in the following general elections.

There is no reason at this stage to suppose that mid-term blues will do the Government any more lasting damage this time. But will the other features still apply?

Mid-term may begin rather early in this Parliament. Despite the current opinion polls, I would not be at all surprised to see the Conservatives discomfited in any early by-election.

It would be an ideal opportunity to send the Government a message without the risk of putting someone else in office, and there are plenty of rude messages that voters might be inclined to send at the moment on the poll tax, the state of the

term misfortunes would be the party capable of topping from power.

So it would be to Mr. Kinnock's advantage to have some early by-elections, and to have them in fairly marginal seats where Labour ran ahead of the Alliance in the general election.

An early by-election is, however, what the Liberals and Social Democrats are dreading. The new merged party of Social and Liberal Democrats has not yet got off the ground. It does not officially exist. It has no leader and no collective organization.

The Onewites have no doubt about their leader, but they need more time to try to establish an effective organization around the country. Otherwise they are in danger of looking more like a fan club than a political party.

For both sections of the old Alliance, however, where the first by-elections come in at least as important as when. The trial of strength between them will come partly in the local government elections, partly in opinion polls, but above all in parliamentary by-elections.

The SLDP will need not only to come ahead of the Onewites candidate, but also to demonstrate before the next general election that the Onewites are not strong enough to stop the SLDP capturing an otherwise winnable seat.

If the Onewites could show that their intervention meant the difference between the SLDP winning or losing in its stronger constituencies, they would be able to threaten the SLDP with the loss of most of its sitting MPs if it refused to have some kind of electoral pact.

But the strength of the Onewites is likely to vary sharply from one constituency to another. So the fortunes of the two parties, any hang on whether the early contests come in seats which an Onewite candidate fought last June.

Taxation measure refused hearing

At attempt to bring in a Bill to end the taxation of personal income at higher than standard rates was defeated in the Commons.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Kensington, C) was refused leave to bring in his Bill under the 10-minute rule procedure by 180 votes to 58 votes—majority, 122.

He said that it was wrong to use the system to punish success. The economy was not so successful that it could afford to drive its most active entrepreneurs offshore.

The only people who would suffer as a result of the reform he suggested were the armies of professional people who advised on tax avoidance. The high-rate tax bands represented the survival of class-war attitudes that had no place in modern Britain.

He suggested that the new standard rate of taxation, to include national insurance

contributions, should be set at not more than 35 per cent.

Mr. John Battle (Leeds West, Lab.), opposing the Bill, said that it would mean the tax system increasingly favouring the rich.

Mr. Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab.) was refused leave by the Speaker (Mr. Bernard Weatherill) to force an emergency debate on a decision by the Home Secretary (Mr. Douglas Hurd) to deport six Sri Lankan Tamils.

Mr. Corbyn said that Mr. Hurd had written to the solicitor representing the Tamils refusing them political asylum and saying that it was now safe for them to return to Sri Lanka. That was not the case. Many Tamils were still being killed in the continuing communal violence.

As the decision could affect the cases of a further 2,500 Tamils in Britain, Mr. Hurd should be required to appear before the House so that it could be challenged.

Transplant Bill today

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Bill that will require doctors to ask relatives of the deceased whether their organs can be used for transplants will be introduced in the Commons today by a Conservative MP.

Mr. Gwyn Jones, MP for Cardiff North, will argue that at present too few doctors bother to ask about possible transplants, with the result that there is a serious shortage of organs and growing waiting lists for transplants.

For example, last year 1,566

kidney transplants were performed and there were 3,500 people on the waiting list. About 2,500 people a year were joining the waiting list, which meant that if the present rate of operations stayed constant the list would grow by 1,000 a year.

Mr. Jones, vice-president of the Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation, is confident that his Transplant Notification Bill will be approved in the Commons under the 10-minute rule procedure, but acknowledges that it could fall foul of a growing backlog of Bills at committee stage.

Labour economic policy Link offered with industry

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr. Bryan Gould disclosed yesterday the first outlines of a new Labour economic and industrial policy by offering a new partnership between government and industry under a future Labour government.

With the party's policy review now well under way and its progress due to be scrutinized by the leadership later this week, Mr. Gould made the first of six major speeches sketching out ideas for Labour's new industrial strategy.

Mr. Gould, the shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is also the joint "convenor" of the key policy group on the economy.

Some of the ideas he will set out in the next two or three months either have or will have been discussed in broad terms by the policy group, but Mr. Gould, who is considered to be a long-term contender for the party leadership, is clearly keen to be seen to be setting the agenda for the policy discussion.

In his speech last night to the Labour Finance and Industry Group and the Labour Economic Strategy Group, Mr. Gould argued that Britain should learn from other countries and have far more co-operation between government and industry.

He attacked the "abdication of responsibility" of the Department of Trade and Industry under Lord Young of Graffham.

He accused the Government of paying too much attention to the financial establishment but too little to industry and blamed both sides for the lack of a co-operative relationship, accusing the CBI of being increasingly



Mr. Gould: Learning from abroad

dominated by financial institutions.

Mr. Gould promised that Labour would bring the unions back into the decision-making machinery of economic policy, but his speech concentrated on the need for a new partnership to bring industry into the centre of decision-making as well.

He said: "It will be a partnership based not on any attempt to dictate to industry, but rather on the great advantage to be gained through a systematic and institutionalized effort to ensure that both sides understand each other and work with rather than against each other."

"No government will promise in advance to do everything that industry wants, but there is surely much to be said for at least knowing what is in each other's minds and in trying to increase the mutual confidence on which longer-term planning, for both government and industry, can be based."

He added: "A government

prepared to take industry into its confidence and an industry prepared to work with government can bring great benefits to everyone."

"To turn our backs on these advantages would not be a high-minded renunciation of corporatism but would mean resigning ourselves to doing badly what we are trying to do well."

In a remark that may raise some suspicion on the left, Mr. Gould said that he looked forward to a much closer relationship with chambers of commerce and trade associations than had been the case so far.

Mr. Gould's other speeches will set out early ideas for a new policy on wealth creation, raising finance for investment, resources for the future, the balance of the economy between service and manufacturing, and trade and Britain's place in the world.

On Thursday and Friday, the Shadow Cabinet and the national executive committee are to meet at Transport House.

They will hear reports from the conveners of the seven policy review groups about the initial stages of their work.

The most contentious item for the meeting will be a preliminary discussion on a new statement of Labour's values and objectives, which is being prepared for the annual conference this year.

The debate is certain to expose the divisions between the far left and the rest of the party about the direction Mr. Neil Kinnock is taking the party. Mr. Tony Benn and Mr. Ken Livingstone have submitted draft statements for the discussion.

Alton angered by committee 'packed with filibusters'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr David Alton, sponsor of the Bill to reduce the legal limit for abortion, criticized the official impartial Commons Committee of Selection yesterday for allowing his opponents to "pack" a crucial committee with filibusters intent on killing his legislation.

It also emerged that the filibusters themselves face the prospect of embarrassing public campaigns in their own constituencies, mounted by Mr Alton's supporters to expose their tactics and shame them into backing down.

As disclosed in *The Times*, a cross-party alliance of Mr Alton's opponents are planning to destroy his Bill by spinning out debate in committee stage on three small preceding Bills so that the Liberal MP runs out of time.

One of the three is Mr Andrew Mackay's Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill, and the Committee of Selection has now approved an 18-man committee, 14 of whom voted against the Alton Bill at second reading.

The names were proposed by Mr Mackay, who led the opposition to the Alton Bill at its second reading, and they include Ms Jo Richardson, the

Labour MP with special responsibility for women's affairs, who is deeply hostile, and such vocal opponents as Mr Peter Hain, Mr Eric Forth, Mr Dafydd Wigley and Mr Robin Squire.

Mr Alton, a former Liberal chief whip, called it an "extraordinary" selection. "It is blatant gerrymandering and I am surprised that the Committee of Selection allowed such a committee to be put together when it has been an open secret in Westminster for several weeks that Mr Mackay was trying to organize this kind of ruse."

However, Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Committee of Selection, said that Mr Mackay's Bill had been given its second reading in the Commons without a vote and that in such cases it was customary for his committee to approve the names proposed by the Bill's sponsor.

"Pro-life" organizations, such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and Life and Care, plan to mobilize their supporters locally to inundate the potential filibusters with protest letters.

Members of an inter-de-

nomination church group, the Order of Christian Unity, will also be organizing days of fasting and prayer in their constituencies to coincide with the MPs' wrecking tactics.

The aim is to make life as uncomfortable as possible for the filibusters. "The British public will be scandalized if a parliamentary ruse or procedural device is used to obstruct a Bill that received a majority of 45 at second reading in the Commons," Mr Alton said.

The Liberal MP is still optimistic that if the filibuster proceeds the Government will help out. On Monday night he met Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, who apparently agreed that the use of such procedural tactics to kill a Bill was not acceptable.

Others on the committee who voted against Mr Alton's Bill at second reading are: Ms Mo Mowlem (Redcar), Dr Lewis Moonie (Kirkcaldy), Mr John Hughes (Coveventry North-east), Mrs Teresa Gordon (Billerica), Mr George Gardiner (Reigate), Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham Erdington), Mr Gerry Birmingham (St Helens South) and Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford).

Castle set for tourist siege



Mr Harry Orde-Powlett inspecting an outside portion of his ancestral home

Castle Bolton in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, will be launched as a key tourist attraction this spring after extensive refurbishment.

One of England's best-preserved but least-known medieval castles, Bolton was completed in 1399 by Sir Richard le Scrope - later Lord Chancellor of England. It is being restored by Mr Harry Orde-Powlett, a descendant of le Scrope, who was recently given the building by his father, Lord Bolton.

Mr Orde-Powlett, aged 33, has redecorated and replenished several of the castle's most important rooms. Period tapestries, tableaux and furniture have been brought in to enhance the two principal halls, bedchambers and the brew house. Arms and suits of armour have been returned to the armourer's forge.

Mr Orde-Powlett, an Old Etonian and National Hunt jockey, believes that Bolton - open to the public for the last 100 years - is one of the most important medieval castles in the British Isles.

One of the main attractions will be the apartments where Mary Queen of Scots was "imprisoned" with 51 of her servants for six months.

If Bolton can lure visitors in similar numbers as Richmond and Middleham near by, Mr Orde-Powlett may yet be able to raise the £1.5 million he needs to carry out essential structural work which will enable him to open further areas of the castle to the public.

Poisoned Iraqi 'a spy for Baghdad'

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Detectives believe the Iraqi businessman poisoned in London by a group of his countrymen was an Iraqi intelligence officer, killed because he refused to return home.

Abdullah Rahim Sharif Ali died last month in a west London hospital after being poisoned with thallium, a pesticide, often used by Arab criminals and intelligence organizations. Before he died Mr Ali made a statement to the police and a magistrate naming three Iraqis who he said slipped the poison into his food.

Within the Iraqi community Mr Ali was known as an unsuccessful businessman who supported the Baghdad regime. After weeks of research, detectives in Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad believe that behind this cover Mr Ali was an intelligence officer for the Ba'ath regime, possibly reporting on the Iraqi community in Britain, or acting as a "sleeper", to be used in times of crisis.

Detectives believe Mr Ali became disillusioned with his role. The response from Baghdad was to send officers from the intelligence service to persuade him to return, or to make an example of him.

Spy kit found in a suitcase, jury told

A suitcase containing advanced surveillance devices was displayed at Luton Crown Court yesterday where a security consultant is accused of conspiring to tap the telephone of a chain store executive.

Det Insp David Toulson said he found the case at the home of the consultant, Michael Anderson, aged 43.

The case bore the name of Mrs Vanessa Calsbrook, the wife of the Dixon chain's security controller, and correspondence from the controller himself, Mr Neville Calsbrook.

Invoices from an Essex firm owned by two other men who have admitted their part in the plot were also recovered.

The arrests came after the discovery of a bugging device in a biscuit tin near the home of Peter Hopper. Mr Hopper had worked for Dixon until July 1986 but at the time of the incident was working from home for Comet on multi-million pound deals.

At the time of the incident Dixon was engaged in a battle

to take over the Woolworth chain, which owns Comet.

The jury was told that Mr Anderson, of Brick Kiln Farm, Epping, Essex, believed his own line was tapped. Mr Anderson told a fellow security consultant, Mr Brian Shaw, who had called him to discuss another operation: "Don't say any more, my phone is bugged."

In the first prosecution for alleged telephone bugging, Mr Anderson denies conspiracy to intercept communications.

Two men hired by Mr Anderson, Terry Rowe, aged 42, of Leigh-on-Sea, and his assistant, Terence Franklin Rowe, also 42, of Basildon, who are not related, have admitted the same charge.

Mr William Coker, for the prosecution, said Mr Anderson, who ran Cornhill Management Consultants, was hired by Dixon, the electrical goods chain, to obtain information about Woolworth executives. Bugging was not ordered.

The case continues today.

Campaign launched to curb salmon poaching

By Kerry Gill

Urgent measures to combat salmon poaching, including a "central intelligence unit" listing suspected poaching gangs and their vehicles, are to be introduced by Scotland's salmon fishery boards.

Poaching Scottish rivers has become big business and is estimated to cost the salmon net and rod industries between £3 million and £4 million a year.

The Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards is to issue bailiffs with standardized warrant cards, similar to those carried by police, and will train them in the presentation of court evidence. Videos, showing typical poaching scenes, will be

distributed by early summer to teach new bailiffs how to approach a suspect.

Group Captain John Proudlock, the association's secretary, said the intelligence unit would be based in Edinburgh and would collate evidence of gangs from each of the 47 Scottish fishery boards.

The traditional view of a poacher setting a salmon for the pot was outdated, he said. There was evidence that gangs from England moved from one Scottish river to another, netting hundreds of pounds worth of fish a night. There were cases of gangs poisoning salmon pools and picking the dead fish off the surface with nets.

Channel 4 widens late night service

By Andrew Billen

Britain is to get its first fully networked service of late-night television later this month. Mr Michael Grade, the new chief executive of Channel 4, announced yesterday that the station's present policy of screening weekend programmes up to 3 am is to be extended to seven nights a week from February 15.

Although ITV broadcasts through the night in many regions it will be the first time every part of the country will be able to view into the small hours.

Mr Grade said: "There are indications that 25 per cent of the television-watching population is available and prepared to watch programmes between midnight and 3 am. Now ITV and Channel 4 are trying to find out exactly what it is people want to see."

The new service will have a different theme daily, with repeats from the avant-garde documentary series *The Elephant Hour* on Mondays, a sports chat show on Tuesdays, music on Wednesdays, foreign feature films on Thursdays and the return of the successful open-ended discussion

programme *After Dark* on Fridays.

Mr Grade, giving his first press conference since taking up his job at Channel 4 four weeks ago, made it clear that the "very strong" schedules for February and March that he was announcing were the work of others.

There would be no relaunch for Channel 4 along the lines of the new look he gave BBC 1 three years ago, but he repeated his promise to strengthen weekend and arts output.

Two Saturday night programmes look increasingly likely to be axed: *Black Forest Clinic*, a poorly-dubbed German soap opera and David Letterman's New York chat show. The "jury was out" on both programmes, Mr Grade said.

Other features of the new season are a return of *Film on Four*, *Treasure Hunt*, and a strong line-up of alternative comedy. New comedies include a ski on Roman Britain, *Chelmsford 123*, a series of *Comic Strip* films - including a Hollywood version of the miners' strike - and the Saturday night variety show, *Saturday Live*, returning on Fridays as *Friday Night Live*.

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Fly Air Europe and discover what a difference our day makes.



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THE FIRST AIRLINE FOR EUROPE

SCHEDULED ROUTES: FROM GATWICK - MUNICH - PARIS - GIBRALTAR - PALMA. FROM MANCHESTER - GIBRALTAR - FUNCHAL. ROUTES TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1988: FROM GATWICK - BRUSSELS - AMSTERDAM - FRANKFURT - ROME - ZURICH - GENEVA - COPENHAGEN

Not even Shakespeare could do as much for your business letters as the latest Epson printer.

You would think that the greatest writer in history could have improved the quality of your business letters to an unrivalled degree. But if it were possible to employ Shakespeare today, would it really be advisable?

Suppose he had to compose an apology to a less-than-merry wife from near Windsor who had been making much ado about being sent the wrong product. His reply would probably read something like this:

Shakespeare Ltd.
Stratford-upon-Avon Cosmetics

2b Ormottobe Mews,
Bard Yard,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

O Mavis! 'Twas upon th'eleventh inst.,
When th'barbarians of Phoebe's chariot
I' th'orient did jocund day portend,
That I receiv'd thy dolorous dispatch.
With onion eyes, alack, I did straightway
Apprise me of th'occasion of thy plaint,
Whose puissance, I avouch, o'erwhelm'd me quite.
Though 'Rose of Cherubim' thou didst desire
To paint thy lips withal, by some mishap
'Twas 'Strumpet's Scarlet' thou wert sent, I fear;
Which for thy beauteous visage was not meet
And did thy cherish'd Maidenhead offend.
Methinks I may perchance this fault redress
By giving that which thou prefer'd'st for nought.
Yet one thing would I fain to thee make clear:
If thou think'st th'error mine, th'art sore mistaken;
The want-wit thou shouldst blame is Francis Bacon.

William Shakespeare

The language is not nearly plain enough for business correspondence, and the letter is far too long-winded, even without the three pages of footnotes which usually accompany every line written by the Bard. (The use of abbreviations such as 'receiv'd' and 'prefer'd' seems to be a rather poor attempt to shorten it.)

Furthermore, Shakespeare is known to have spelt his own surname in eleven different ways, which would hardly inspire confidence in a business client today.

Yet to be fair to the great man, there are many other literary giants who would have been even less successful at this particular craft.

The Restoration dramatists' habit of writing the letter 'f' instead of 's' would be somewhat embarrassing (perhaps difafluently so for makers of vacuum cleaners).

But when it comes to strange spelling, Geoffrey Chaucer certainly takes some beating. One can just imagine how he would write a character reference:

Chaucer
Yarn Merchants

Sevene, Pilgrimes Street,
Estate of Industry,
Canterbury,
Engelond.

Of oon greet man I wolde yow speke a word;
By hym, al ootheren been nat worth a toord.
This larned wight ycleped was Herbert Jones,
Y-wis, I woot, and scoothly for the nones.
Wel koude he wryte and rekene with a Bak,
And nevere wolde he untrewen rynges inne sik.
Nowher so busy a man as he ther nas;
Whan that the tyme for dynen comen was,
Ful looth were hym to drynken ale, pardee,
Or throwen aries in the hostelrye.
He yaf nat for swich ydelnesse a tounse,
But al the day wolde werken for his bosome;
So this yonge Herbert hadde noght heigh renoun -
His tonge, seyde alle, was overmuchel broun.
But, natheles, his kyndnesse was moost pleyn;
For he yaf me a fyvere so to seyn.

Geoffrey Chaucer

To think that our children should be exposed to such lamentable orthography in their schools! It is a national disgrace.

However, the spelling of the greatest-ever Scots poet Robert Burns was no better, and the regional nature of his vocabulary would probably be discernible in even the simplest communication, such as a gentle reminder to a client to settle his account:

R. BURNS.

Auld Lang Signwriter

Wee, sleekit bousie,
Twa, Haggis Hill,
Banks and Bracs
o' bonny Doon,
Scotia.

Ye De'il! ye aye me twantie poun!
I canna bide aye mair;
Sae aye ye dinna gie it aye,
I'll come an' flae ye bare.

I ettle saib ye wi' my aieve
In wude unsonsie an' dark,
Your clatty claes I'll siblin's rive
An' lunt your duddie eark.

Your breeks I'll wi' a crummock whang
Tae mak ye skreich an' cour,
Ye winna find, whaur'er ye gang,
Nae bield frae a' my pooder.

For unco canny wad I be
Tae dae ye meikle hairm,
I'll brak your bane that I ma see
A stookie an' your airm.

I'll sheelp your shanks tae mak ye loup
An' 'mang the thriseles gae,
Then I'll my wale whittle doup
An' sned your hurdies tae.

Your gab an' neb I'll ding an' dirl,
An' syne I'll stound your noddle;
But gif I smoor ye whan ye skirl,
I care na de'il's a boddle.

Robert Burns

A business letter written by the nineteenth-century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow would at least be comprehensible:

LONGFELLOW INC.

Tailboy makers

By the shore of Gitchie Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Nowhere near the Rocky Mountains
Or the kingdom of the West-Wind,
GG128S.

Medjakris has beset us,
Made us all cry, "Wudjoo Bleevit!"
For we have run out of wood screws,
Gleaming, shining, 10 mill. wood screws,
Screws that hold the tailboy doors on,
Hold the teak-look chipboard doors on;
Screws that bear the reference number
KB38577.

Very great the number wanted,
Very large the total needed,
Very many screws required,
Twenty thousand screws required.
Frantic, anxious are we getting,
Cannot help but panic, panic.
Very urgent, urgent, urgent,
Urgent, urgent is our order,
Urgent and substantial order.
Very quickly must we have it,
Quickly have we very it must.
Please deliver by next Monday,
Dum-de-dum-de-dum-de-dum-de.
If you cannot, I will fetch it,
Fetch it in my Minnecoopa,
My beloved Minnecoopa,
Which I bought on Hapurchas.
Yours sincerely, most sincerely,
Yours most utterly sincerely,

Henry W. Longfellow

Unfortunately, Longfellow's use of rhythm and repetition becomes unbearably irritating after any length of time.

Perhaps the more direct and frank style of D. H. Lawrence would be more effective. His initials suggest that he might have been cut out to be an international freight courier — so what sort of sympathetic, concerned reply would he have given to the complaints that inevitably occur from time to time?

D.H. Lawrence & Sons & Lovers

Manother House,
Hassler Way,
Flat-out-on-Chatterley,
Tillett,
Wills.

We'd love to handle your goods.

Dear Sir,

Yours,

D.H. Lawrence

P.S. And you can — your — as well.

On reflection, perhaps he would not be so suitable after all. It is hard to imagine some of the other major writers of the twentieth century faring any better at drafting commercial correspondence. For example, how might James Joyce have written to accept a job?

Useless House,
Funnygoingson Wayke,
Troublin',
Dreiland.

JAMES JOYCE
Photographer

Portraits of young men a specialty

Dear Sir,

Sanctuary such fjord querspendence of Maythefourthbeathyon.

Iale beady-eye ted to lens my more vices at disservice of mirage at St. Vitus's Chacha on Shatterday the dirtiest. (Doughnut wary — only pheromones! higher fee.)

Arm hopping is pratically to oapobewer the breast possessible pairtreas of your sintilleighteen broad-to-be ana whorde of ridersmades wither soft philtre.

Araking metre tackier prince was coltsurude hi dear. Whale shot rarely in miniature tabby so spiffil avon villafy the far too roughs of my lowcal ruefuls (wooden be bigamy), the masure of their compositions crud besetter lacquer short on genius sais quol. (Tossay brotherwheesa word bee crasstupignorance.)

Urination to git stitched is ruddepraved. I lonely marijuana moulder.

But hair swishing you happenies ad einfortnightum (fraternity),

Yoursae Fatfoolish,

James Joyce

No wonder Joyce's last words were, 'Does nobody understand?'

Letters written by dramatists of the Absurd would doubtless be equally sheepshank tarpaulin hatstand bambembimbombum.

And while employing one of the leading modern spy novelists to write for you might appear to be a good idea in view of their popularity, their letters could prove difficult to decipher even after the ink had been made visible:

Tinker, Taylor & Soldier Limited
Estate Agents

Take the scaled brown envelope from under the 7th tree along to the south of Cleopatra's Needle; hand the contents to the tramp with the green tie; holding up his trousers outside London Station at 3.45 p.m. Sunday. He will give you a telephone number. Ring this three times and ask for Bot. Plants.

Re: Information requisition on Operation Semi 36a

1. The heat has brought out the spider plants on the steps and there are insects in every room.
2. Small mounds of earth have been found near the flower border to the east, but the housekeeper will make these less conspicuous with an umbrella.
3. The situation regarding your transfer is quite simple. When Beaumont reported that he had seen Grenouille giving Buchner's report to Botomich with his right hand rather than his left, Henderson realised that the doorknob Crapaud had given Zheurov to inspect. Brecht's small, cramped flat was actually for that of Dürrenmatt, who had been trying to contact Underwood about Vladimirsky's shabby, crumbling house (not Modinov's, as Escargot had wrongly told Jacobs) ever since Petepanski had warned Frisch that Hamilton was really called Sputnik and worked not for Wright, Goodfellow and Fairman but for Ripanov, Stella and Turiski, the network which had persuaded Baker to give Mann directions to Cochon's picturesque, rustic cottage rather than to that of Poisson, where Green, working under the cunning alias of Greene, had first suspected that B011 did not in fact exist, but had been invented by Renard, that is to say Getepirsky, to make Parker think that the price of Heine's stark, modern penthouse would be pushed beyond his reach and, therefore, stay put in Semi 36a so you can't move in for six months.

Please dispose of this letter by eating it.

If you could hire the services of any of the famous names we have mentioned, it would cost you an absolute fortune — and as we have seen, the results would not be particularly good anyway.

Yet for the astonishingly low price of £385 (RRP exc. VAT), you can now buy a printer that will ensure that every business letter you produce is razor-sharp — the new 24-pin Epson LQ500.

Even if what you write has no great literary merit, the ultra-high definition of the LQ500's two correspondence-quality fonts will make it impressively clear and readable.

The LQ500 has several other advantages over the great writers of history too. It is far more prolific, turning out 150 characters per second in draft and 50 c.p.s. in letter-quality mode (all at 10 c.p.i.).

It can adopt different styles much more easily; all you have to do to change fonts is press a couple of buttons on the 'Selectype' panel.

It is also very quiet (only 55 dBA); far more compatible than D. H. Lawrence (it has an IBM character set built in); and far less temperamental than any author (each of the 24 pins in its print head will strike the paper at least 200 million times before it needs replacing).

Finally, how many writers can boast their own 8K buffer, automatic sheet-loading facility and pull-feed tractor unit?

For more details on the LQ500, write to: Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham B37 5BR. (Or call up Prestel *280# or ring 0800 289622 free.)

Could any other printer in its price range do as much for your business letters?

To quote the Bard — tennis balls, my liege.

EPSON

Justice for blacks 'must be seen to be done in courts'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates' courts are being urged by the Home Office to take steps to ensure they are not seen to be discriminating against black defendants.

Mr David Faulkner, deputy under secretary at the Home Office, says that although there is no proof that black and white offenders are dealt with differently, there is a "case to answer".

"Can a white magistrate be sure that he or she has the same sensitivity and understanding of the situation of a black person as he has of the white people among whom he probably grew up and among whom he has probably spent most of his life?"

Writing in the latest issue of *The Magistrate*, journal of the Magistrates' Association, he

says: "Black people may come into court not only as defendants but also as witnesses, relatives, or parties in civil proceedings, as solicitors or probation officers, or to make inquiries about fines, maintenance or other matters".

Courts must ensure black people receive the same standards of justice and fairness as anyone else.

In most cases they did, but there were occasional lapses or misunderstandings which could do great harm.

Mr Faulkner urges all courts, especially those in areas with large black populations, to look first at their staffing and at whether there are black faces to be seen among the usher or other court staff who come into contact with the public.

Second, they should see if notices and forms are in different languages or whether the court is "part of a monolithic white establishment in which black people have no part".

Third, they should ask whether the oath is administered easily and sensitively for people of non-Christian religions, or whether they are "made to feel uncomfortable or as if they do not belong".

Courts should also consider how easy it is to find an interpreter, if necessary, and what steps they are taking to meet the requirements of the Bail Act to "have regard to the defendant's associations and community ties".

It is quite common, he says, for a young black person to move between members of his extended family, which may be very supportive, but which on paper will look as if he has "no fixed address".

The probation service should examine that problem, he says, along with the difficulties of writing social inquiry reports.

He points out that black people represent about 4.3 per cent of the population and those of West Indian origin between 1 and 2 per cent.

Home Office figures last year showed that ethnic minorities represented 12 per cent of the prison population, a figure which has since risen to 14 per cent.

If magistrates believe simply that "justice should not recognize colour" and that "there is nothing to discuss", Mr Faulkner urges them to think again.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord MacLay of Clashfern, raised the issue of the appointment of black magistrates in a recent speech.

One reason why they were disproportionately represented on the bench was because of the initial small pool of candidates, with first generation immigrants not seen or seeing themselves as candidates.

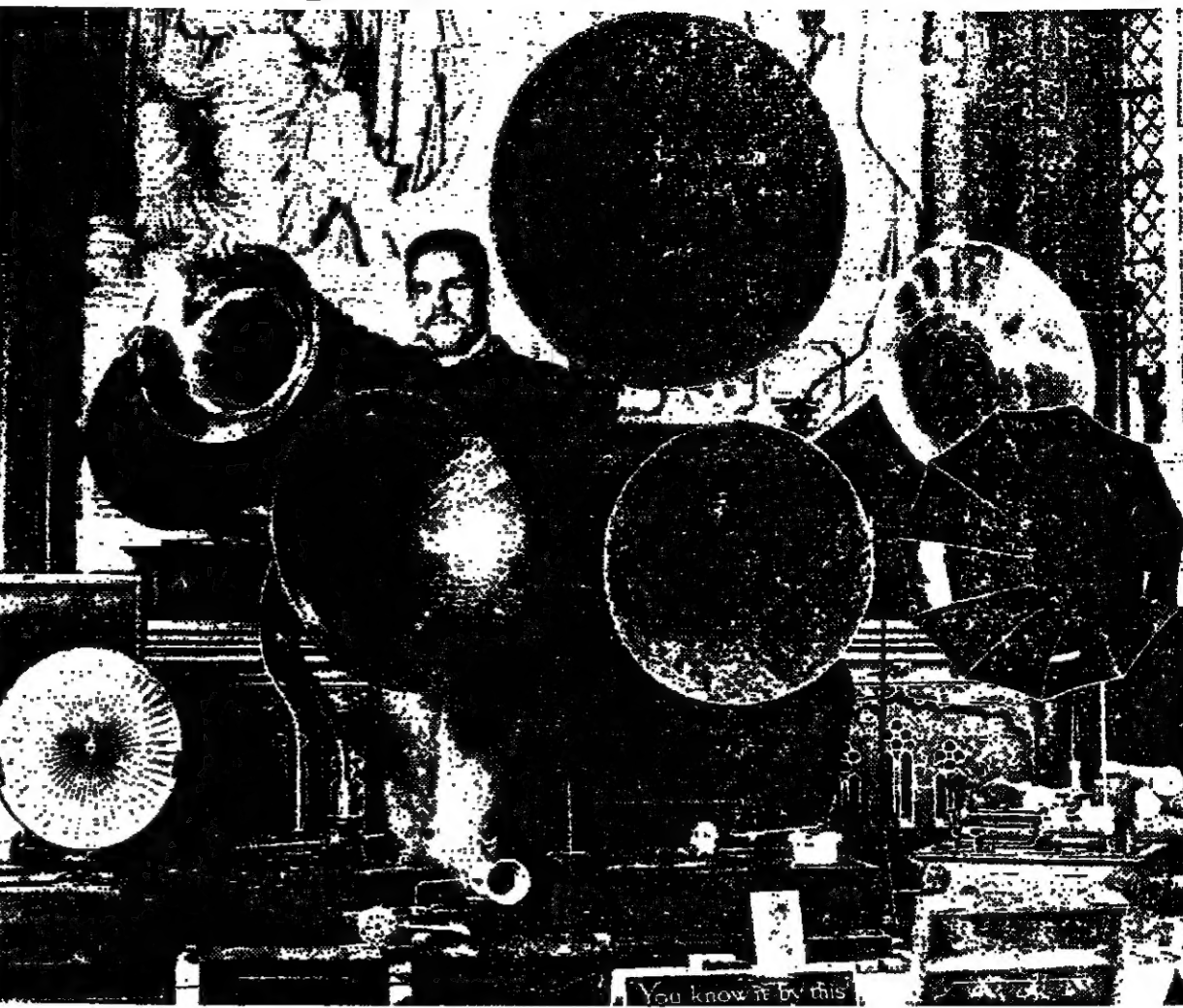
But today some 44 per cent of the black population were born in this country and the appointment pattern for magistrates since 1962 reflected that change, he said.

From 1960 to 1969 12 black magistrates were appointed, 11 men and one woman; from 1970 to 1979, 122 (92 men and 30 women) and from 1980 to 1986, 235 men and 86 women.

At the end of 1986 there were 23,730 active magistrates of which 452 (under 2 per cent) were black.

Recent appointment figures show that more than 4 per cent of new magistrates are black.

Winding up of musical history



Speakers' corner: Inside a splendid Victorian church in Chichester, West Sussex, history is being preserved through the efforts of a man with an unusual ear for music.

Lester Jones (above) and his father Clive are the curators of the Mechanical Music and Doll Collection, an assembly of more than 100 gramophones, phonographs, other mechanical musical instruments and antique dolls from Victorian and Edwardian times.

The collection, thought to be the most comprehensive in Britain, was started 43 years ago by Lester Jones's grandfather, George, who had a

passion for collecting Victorian artefacts.

It gradually expanded until the family moved it into a disused church five years ago and put the display on show to the public.

"We just started to collect items which other people were throwing out as rubbish", Mr Clive Jones said.

The Mechanical Music and Doll Collection can be visited at Church Road, Portfield, Chichester, West Sussex. It is open seven days a week from Easter to the end of September, but only at weekends in the winter.

(Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Two are remanded over jail escape

John Kendall, aged 36, was yesterday remanded in custody until tomorrow at Leicester Magistrates Court accused of escaping from Gartree maximum security prison in Leicestershire last December.

He is also charged with conspiring with Andrew Graham Russell to break out of Gartree, unlawfully taking control of an aircraft, falsely imprisoning Mr Ian Evans, the pilot, and having a firearm or imitation.

Miss Anna Zimand, for the prosecution, said Kendall's wife Lorraine, aged 27, had earlier been charged and bailed to appear on March 1.

In a separate hearing, Mr Russell, of no fixed address, was also remanded in custody until tomorrow. He faces charges including aiding Kendall and Sydney Draper to escape from Gartree, impeding the prosecution of Kendall knowing or believing him to be guilty of an arrestable offence, having a firearm or imitation with intent to hijack, and conspiring with Kendall and his wife and others to assist a prisoner to escape.

Draper, aged 39, who was serving a life sentence for murder, is still on the run.

Bar to combat discrimination

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Bar is trying to stamp out racial discrimination in the legal profession through changes to the Race Relations Act 1976, which would make it unlawful for any lawyer to discriminate against a barrister on grounds of race.

The Home Secretary will be approached with amendments the Bar has drafted to the Act, which will enable barristers to bring legal proceedings against any solicitor who refuses to instruct him on racial grounds.

Solicitors will be protected from the Act's sanctions only if they have can prove they acted upon the express written instructions of a client not to instruct a particular barrister or a barrister of a particular racial group.

At the same time, the Bar wants it to be made unlawful for a barrister to discriminate against another barrister when offering pupils and tenancies, or against existing pupils or tenants in the running of chambers.

The amendments have been drafted by Mr Michael Beloff, QC.

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar, said yesterday: "It is the policy of the Bar council to do all it can to deal with difficulties that undoubtedly exist in our profession as well as others."

"This seems one way forward." For some time, black and Asian members of the Bar had been concerned that there was discrimination against them, both in relation to being instructed by solicitors and in

being admitted to chambers as pupils and tenants.

"At present the Race Relations Act does not give any remedy for this kind of discrimination and the proposed amendments are intended to fill the gap."

A frequently-voiced complaint among black barristers is that they are not given important briefs from solicitors.

Solicitors maintain that if this is so, it is because of the client's own prejudice in not wanting a black counsel.

Mr Johnson said there was concern over the situation that might occur if a solicitor asked a chambers clerk for a particular barrister, was told he was not available, and was then offered the name of someone else obviously not white.

"The solicitor then may make an excuse and go elsewhere."

He added that it was a problem for solicitors because there were clients who were racially prejudiced in all walks of life.

That was why the Bar was proposing that solicitors be protected from legal action where they could show they had acted on the client's written instructions.

The Bar's race relations committee has also agreed to commission a survey from Coopers and Lybrand, the management consultants, on racial disadvantage at the Bar.

Existing statistics are incomplete and the evidence of discrimination is largely anecdotal.

Unhappy pop singer admits making £1m

Holly Johnson, the pop singer, agreed in the High Court in London yesterday that he had become a millionaire with the group Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

He said he had received £980,000 from the group's last records and with other sums had made more than £1 million.

But the singer, aged 27, insisted he wanted to break away from the group's organization, headed by Mr Trevor Horn, the producer, because it was not a "happy and jovial" work atmosphere.

"I did not get on with them as people and I do not think they have any respect for me", he said.

Mr Horn's company, Zang Tumb Tumb Records, and the music publishers, Perfect Songs, are attempting to keep Mr Johnson to agreements signed in September 1983. Mr Johnson is counter-claiming damages for money he claims he is still owed.

The hearing continues today.

Gay clergy 'terrified to admit their sexuality'

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Editor

Bishops of the Church of England were being pressed by public opinion and some national newspapers into adopting liberal policies towards homosexual clergy, members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement said yesterday.

At a press conference called to register their opposition to recent developments in the church, one member of the movement, the Rector of St Luke's, Charlton, south-east London, the Rev Tony Crowe, said it amounted to a "right-wing plot to destabilize the church".

In response to the climate of opinion and in the light of last November's General Synod debate on homosexuality, some bishops had felt they had to make statements they would not normally have made, he added.

"Gay clergy are frightened, quite terrified, to speak out about their sexuality, whether they are practising homosexuals or not", he said. As a

result some clergy were considering moving from a hostile diocese to a more tolerant one.

Mr Geoffrey Thompson, editor of the *Lesbian and Gay Christian* magazine, said bishops had watched their old structure of "nods, winks and discretion" crumble about them. The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement was dismayed at the pastoral implications of such statements and, still more, struck by their hypocrisy.

Mr Crowe said some newspapers, particularly *The Sun*, were "fanning the flames" by getting bishops to make moral judgements about homosexual clergy. He added that "pulpit poofers" were now legitimate targets for "gay-bashing".

Before next week's meeting of the General Synod, the House of Laity is to hold a separate meeting at which it will discuss homosexuality among the clergy.

Species to be kept on ice

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some species of wildlife doomed to extinction may be regenerated from frozen embryos many years after they have vanished from the Earth, scientists believe.

A unit at London Zoo will use test-tube fertilization techniques to gather, freeze and store the eggs and sperm of endangered animals such as the panda, gorilla, and possibly the African black rhino.

The "frozen bank", believed to be the first in Britain, will concentrate on species whose populations have dwindled to between 50 and 100 individuals.

Professor Tony Flint, director of science at the Zoo, hopes to raise about £150,000 to set up the project. He will launch an appeal this summer among conservation-minded industrialists, companies and businesses.

"Freezing certain animal embryos, eggs, sperm and DNA has become both feasible and necessary", he said yesterday. "We are looking a long way ahead but it may be possible in the next century to regenerate a rhino that goes extinct in the next 20 years. It's a gleam in the eye at the moment, but I believe there are very exciting possibilities."

Dr Harry Moore, the head of gamete research at the zoo, said: "Freezing sperm has proved difficult in the past, but we appear to be close to solving many of the problems".

With support from the Medical Research Council, the zoo has already succeeded in storing the sex cells of the panda, gorilla and other primates. Part of the project will be devoted to learning more about the evolutionary relationships of some species.

The conservation plan is spurred by scientists' knowledge that the world is rapidly losing many species as their habitats are destroyed by farming, industry and other human activities.

In South America alone, 60,000 square miles of rain forest are lost every year, and the World Wildlife Fund says that as many as 1,200 species could be wiped out within three years.

A spokeswoman for the World Wildlife Fund, which is cautiously endorsing the zoo's scheme, said yesterday: "It cannot be an excuse for not protecting animals in the wild, but if nothing else can be done it could be justified".

If you go down to Heathrow today, you're sure of a big surprise.

For January 20th was the day TWA opened their spacious new check-in facilities.

Now, in TWA's new hall, you will find 22 new check-in desks, 5 ticketing counters and a smart new information centre. And several check-in desks are dedicated solely to First and Ambassador Business Class, for smoother passage.

Thanks to TWA, you can now start your journey feeling fresh. Which makes good business sense because then you won't arrive feeling like a bear with a sore head!

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LEADING THE WAY TO THE USA.

WORLD ROUNDUP

TV stations snub Reagan's speech

New York (Reuter) — The three leading US television networks — ABC, NBC and CBS — will not provide live coverage of President Reagan's speech from the White House in support of new aid to Nicaragua's Contra rebels. They said they had decided the speech was not a major change from their recent reports of Mr Reagan's efforts to win congressional approval for \$36 million (£20 million) of aid.

The White House spokesman, Mr Martin Fitzwater, said he thought ABC, CBS and NBC were showing bad news judgment. "I think it's newsworthy. They make a mistake by not carrying it," he said.

Nato plea to France

Washington — Britain would like to see closer French co-operation with Nato, including the use of French ports and airfields in reinforcement exercises, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the World Affairs Council here yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

While welcoming all allied co-operation that would strengthen Nato, he said Britain wanted to see France return to the integrated military structure. He noted French forces have started to exercise further forward in southern Germany, and added: "We would like to see this extended to the north German plain."

Hayward refusal

Stockholm — The Swedish prison authorities yesterday rejected a request by Simon Hayward, the jailed British Life Guards captain, to be allowed to attend the funeral in Britain of his younger brother, David, who was killed in a car crash in Scotland at the weekend (Christopher Mosey writes).

A spokesman for the prison authorities, saying that Hayward could appeal, added that Captain Hayward's crime was too severe and he had served too little of his five-year sentence (for drugs smuggling) for his request to be granted. "We're worried we would simply never see him again," he said.

Brazzi acquitted

Venice (Reuter) — Italian former screen idol, Rossano Brazzi, has been cleared of arms trafficking charges after a three-month trial in Venice. Signor Brazzi, aged 71, one of Italy's leading romantic screen actors since the Second World War, had consistently denied the charges.

He was among 22 people acquitted on Monday. He had been accused of international arms trafficking between 1982 and 1984. Nine defendants were found guilty of belonging to a network which supplied weapons and missiles to mercenaries and Middle East countries.

Plenca's evidence

Belgrade — Mr Dusan Plenca, the Yugoslav war historian who uncovered a document allegedly implicating President Waldheim of Austria in war crimes, said the original is in the state archives in Belgrade (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Professor Manfred Messerschmidt, a member of the international commission of historians investigating Dr Waldheim's war record, said yesterday that he hoped to travel here from Zagreb to see the original. In Zagreb he uncovered 30 new documents which provided evidence that President Waldheim should have known about all the atrocities in Kozara in 1942.

New job for envoy

Delhi — Mr P.C. Alexander, India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, is reportedly replacing Mr S.L. Khurana as the governor of Tamil Nadu, where the central government has taken over the administration since Saturday (Kuldip Nayyar writes). Mr Khurana was dismissed after a vote of confidence in the state government degenerated into brawls.

In the north-eastern state of Tripura, polling for the assembly took place relatively peacefully with a high turnout, despite 45 people being killed in the past three days by the extremist Tribal National Volunteers group.

Sanctions studied

Harare — Studies aimed at showing South Africa's vulnerability to economic sanctions and strengthening measures imposed so far imposed have been commissioned by the meeting in Lusaka of eight Commonwealth foreign ministers (Jan Raath writes).

The Lusaka meeting, the first in a series of five by a committee of foreign ministers from Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, is concentrating on countering anti-sanctions lobbies and South Africa's own "veil of secrecy". A spokesman said that Australia had already drafted a preliminary report on South Africa's connections with the international finance system and a second report will demonstrate the effects of sanctions to counter arguments, chiefly from Britain and West Germany, that an economic blockade against South Africa cannot inflict damage against its economic powerhouse.

Festival of arts

California to see best of British

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Anglophiles are dusting off their Harris tweeds, polishing their Barbour coats and practising their vowels in preparation for UK/LA, a three-month "celebration of British arts" which invades California from tomorrow.

In the presence of the Duke and Duchess of York, some of Britain's best visual, musical and theatrical figures will display their talents in the California sunshine.

An idea conceived by the British Consul-General in Los Angeles, Mr Donald Ballentyne, the festival is sponsored by a host of commercial concerns led by the British-born philanthropist Mr Norman Lee, now based in Beverly Hills.

The National Theatre is the main omission, but it will scarcely be missed, what with the co-production, by the Music Centre opera group and the English National Opera, of *The Mikado*, directed by Jonathan Miller and set not in Japan but in a 1920s English seaside resort Grand Hotel.

Dudley Moore, the actor and musician, appears as Kokoi in the production at the historic Wilma Theater, where Sir Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will follow.

The full Academy of St Martin in the Fields Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner, the Birmingham Symphony with Simon Rattle, the English Chamber Orchestra and the English Concert Orchestra will all perform. And the Los Angeles Philharmonic's André Previn will have an excuse

to conduct all the English music he so loves.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will mount a photographic exhibition of British stars and film makers and a special tribute to Noel Coward, hosted by



Dudley Moore playing Kokoi in an English hotel.

Michael York. The University College of Los Angeles is staging a 1960s retrospective of British classics such as *Look Back in Anger*, *Room at the Top*, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, *Tom Jones* and *Morgan*.

Several full-length BBC radio plays will be heard over National Public Radio, and Public Broadcasting, the non-commercial TV service, will show Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective*.

There will also be art exhibitions: the engravings of Hogarth at UCLA, and British portraiture — Gainsborough, Reynolds and Constable — at the University of Southern California.

New Yorkers intent on living out fiction

From Charles Bremner, New York

New Yorkers are not just devouring Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*, turning this vast novel into one of the best sellers of the decade, but they also seem intent on acting out scenes from its plot.

Since the wicked and brilliant satire on 1980s New York hit the bookshops last autumn, hardly a week has gone by without at least one episode in life mirroring Mr Wolfe's art, sometimes more hilariously than he would have allowed himself to write.

For instance, the novel, a 650-page panorama in the tradition of Balzac and Thackeray, opens with a black Harlem crowd gleefully shouting down the mayor, whom the reader assumes to be Mr Edward Koch, as he tries to make a speech. Two weeks ago, the fiction became fact, and *The Daily News* splashed a banner headline: "Koch booed down in Harlem."

More implausible have been the antics of the Rev Al

Sharpton, a black activist who has sprung from obscurity in the past two months almost as if he had been invented to fit the part of the Rev Bacon.

Bacon is the vengeful Harlem demagogue who enjoys power, publicity and private profit as a spokesman for the oppressed. Among his tricks, he orchestrates demonstrations for competing local television crews, making a handful of supporters look like a crowd.

Last month, as racial tensions boiled up over a trial verdict, the overweight figure of Mr Sharpton was suddenly everywhere on the local news as he led "days of outrage" protests with gaggles of supporters.

Then, a fortnight ago, *Newsday* revealed him to have been a long-time FBI informer, a role he agreed to play after being implicated in a cocaine deal. "How Al Sharpton conned the movement, the media and the Government," said last week's *Village Voice* story.

Lawyers seem to have been taking Wolfe caricatures as a challenge. Thomas Killian, the shark-like criminal defender in the book, would have been proud of a statement last month by Mr Jeff Weller, a lawyer whose client had just confessed in detail to the murder of his new bride. "My client is not guilty," he said. "As far as I can see, all they have right here is a confession."

So precise are Mr Wolfe's cruel observations of New York types, from the Rev Bacon to Wall Street money-men, to the thugs of the Bronx, that *Bonfire* names are already entering daily speech. Mr Wolfe may be more a journalist than another Dickens, but New Yorkers are talking about a Sherman McCoy or a Rev Bacon as they might refer to a Micawber or a Gradgrind.

This is not the game of identifying the players in a *roman-à-clef*, Mr Wolfe's people are types, not individuals (though there is no shortage of guesswork on the original for Peter Fallow, the sponging British newspaperman, who is the only winner in the tale).

Like the names, *Bonfire* language is joining the vocabulary. This is no surprise, given Mr Wolfe's history as a connoisseur of vogue phrases such as "radical chic" and "right stuff".

At the opening-night party for *The Phantom of the Opera* last week, a clutch of socialites was busy dividing the "social x-rays" from the "lemon x-rays" at the next table. These are Wolfe's two categories of society women as observed by his anti-hero Sherman McCoy, the Wall Street "master of the universe" whose tragicomic descent into the inferno of the city's criminal justice system is recounted in the novel.

The x-rays are the original wives, "starved to perfection". The lemon x-rays are the recently-acquired blonde consorts of successful men.

Mr Wolfe's merciless eye for the black under-class and the motives of their defenders has earned him reproaches for racism, though he is no less

malicious towards the Wall Street rich and the world of the Manhattan rich, as typified by McCoy and the Bavardages, a socialite couple.

New York, in his vision, is a jungle of hypocrisy and class warfare, a Third World place where money buys insulation from the absurdities of cubby-hole-sized flats with four-figure rents. Mr Wolfe lovingly chronicles the life-style of McCoy, who is going broke on a million dollars a year as a Wall Street bond salesman with a Park Avenue duplex, Mercedes, Long Island summer house and \$1,800 (about £1,000) Savile Row suits.

The Wolfe treatment has added a frisson of self-recognition to the tremors of insecurity echoing through Manhattan's more monied avenues since Black Monday. Mr Wolfe's detractors, and there are many, say *Bonfire* fails because everyone is savaged except for an old Jewish judge in the Bronx. For the critics, Mr Wolfe's relentless realism is *Bonfire*'s biggest flaw.

Mr Wolfe, now considerably richer, tells interviewers he is just painting the life of the city he really loves. "New York is a carnival that never disappoints."

Bonfire of the Vanities, Mr Wolfe's first novel, will be published in Britain next week.

French agent assassinated by gunmen in east Beirut

From Juan Carlos Gammac, west Beirut

At least three gunmen firing silenced pistols from a car in Beirut yesterday killed a young Frenchman, who was later admitted in Paris to have been an undercover agent of the DGSE, France's external security service.

The daylight attack brought to five the number of Frenchmen assassinated in east Beirut in the past 16 months.

Medical reports said that M Jacques Merrin, aged 27 — whose supposed job here was as an electronics salesman — died instantly of three bullet wounds to the neck and the chest as he drove his BMW through the Ashrafieh district. According to some witnesses, the gunmen fled in a blue Peugeot as M Merrin's car crashed into a post.

It was not known which of the extremist groups active in Lebanon was behind the killing. There is no doubt, however, that the latest assassination is part of the old, ruthless anti-French campaign in Lebanon.

Militants of the far left still regard France as a colonial power with various political ambitions in Lebanon, while pro-Iranian Muslim radicals have vowed to punish Paris for its support of Iraq in the Gulf war.

In West Beirut, meanwhile, the case of eight Europeans seized in the Mediterranean by sea-borne commandos of the radical Abu Nidal organization almost three months ago took an unexpected turn.

The kidnappers released a brief videotape message in which Mme Jacqueline Valente, a French citizen, said she had decided not to let her two daughters gain their freedom and join their father in France. "I want to keep them with me," she said, looking straight at the camera, with a Palestinian flag and emblems of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council in the background.

News of the assassination was relayed to M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister. M Chirac said: "I can only note that initiatives taken outside Lebanon have dramatic consequences within that country. An ultimate solution will not be reached exclusively within Lebanon."

Hamadei brother 'key to three kidnappings'

From John England, Bonn

A Lebanese suspected of kidnapping Herr Ralph Schray in Beirut last week was seen as the key figure behind the abductions of two other West Germans in the city a year ago, a Düsseldorf court was told yesterday.

Mr Fayek Riad, an interpreter for the federal criminal bureau, said he made 25 telephone calls to Beirut last year with messages for the suspect, Mr Abdel Hadi Hamadei. They were taken by Mona Hage, a Lebanese woman who had an Islamic marriage contract with Mr Hamadei's brother, Abbas. He is on trial for the kidnappings last year of Dr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt.

Today, the court will hear of the alleged role in the abductions of Mr Rashid Mahroum, whom Bonn employed briefly as a contact with the kidnappers.

The federal public prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said it was investigating the kidnappings on suspicion of having been an accessory to the kidnappings. He is believed to be hiding in Cyprus.

Mme Valente's decision effectively brought to an end efforts by M Lucien Bitterlin, a French negotiator who had been trying to obtain the release of the two girls, Virginie Bertille, aged five, and her sister Marie-Laure, aged 6.

M Bitterlin, who heads the French-Arab Solidarity Association in Paris, had already been notified by Abu Nidal's men that the girls wanted to stay with their mother. Mme Valente is said to have given birth to her third daughter while in captivity and the child is reported to be in good health.

The videotape included brief appearances by Mr Emmanuel Houtekins and Mr Fernand Houtekins, two Belgian brothers who, like all the people on the yacht *Silko* which was allegedly seized off the coast of Gaza on November 8, have been accused of spying for Israel's Mossad intelligence service.

PARIS: Security sources in Paris indicated last night that M Merrin was a DGSE agent.

There was no information about the nature of the assignment which had taken him to Beirut, but there will inevitably be speculation that it concerned the three French hostages still held in Lebanon by a pro-Iranian organization.

It is known that the French Government has recently been attempting to establish contact with the kidnappers, possibly through an intermediary. The same technique, using an extremely experienced former intelligence officer, helped to pave the way for the return of two French journalists late last year.

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Horror lingers when the hostage drama ends



Tears of relief and looks of anxiety greeting one of 17 hostages freed by two American Indians who took over a local newspaper in Lumberton, North Carolina, to protest against racial injustice. The two later surrendered.

Israel hawks push home advantage in US stance

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Right-wing Likud members of the Israeli coalition Government, pressed at the American veto of the latest United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israeli policy, are campaigning to convince the US Administration that Israel will never leave the occupied territories.

Foreign Ministry officials believe the US has already learnt one lesson in vetoing the resolution on Monday evening. Before Christmas it supported a resolution condemning Israeli policy in the occupied territories; now it has vetoed two consecutive similar resolutions.

The Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Mr Yoni Netanyahu, said after the vote that it was "a sign that the basic friendship between the two countries can stand up to the test even in difficult days".

The new campaign was spearheaded yesterday by Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister, who told a group of settlement leaders that he intended to build "thousands" of new flats in the occupied territories in the financial year ahead, as well as new roads in two security risk areas.

"We won't give up land, water or the basis of our authority," he said. "Our presence is not temporary, and we

will tell this to our American friends."

This message is identical to that of Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade and Industry Minister, who has made two speeches this week calling for increased Jewish settlement in the occupied territories in order to improve security and to put an end to the Palestinian unrest.

The hardliners in Likud are concerned at what they see as attempts by the US State Department to make Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, agree to scale down his tough stand against territorial compromise in any peace negotiations.

The State Department is expected to release a new policy paper in the next few days in which it is likely to repeat its opposition to permanent Israeli rule in the territories and to suggest an interim three-year period of "expanded autonomy" leading to a kind of association or confederation between the territories and Jordan.

The "expanded autonomy" would include an end to Israeli settlement, the transfer of control over land and water rights and the granting of political rights to Palestinians, who would be able to elect a self-governing authority.

American officials have suggested that Mr Shamir, prompted by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is ready to accept this interim settlement, including elections for the new authority. Mr Shamir, however, if ever he did make such concessions, has now firmly denied doing so.

His spokesman has issued a statement saying that the Prime Minister is bound by the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and that there can be no question of negotiating away the future of the territories linked to an interim autonomy arrangement.

Mr Shamir himself said that the autonomy proposals "help us maintain present and future settlements in the territories".

Settlement leaders are also campaigning against any suggestion that land should be handed over. The Gush Etzion (Band of the Faithful), the main settlers' organization, met on Monday evening and condemned Mr Shamir for bowing to American pressure and "pouring oil on the flames".

Heavy rain yesterday helped to limit the number of demonstrators, with only a few stone-throwing incidents reported.

On-site inspections which were good for the Soviet Union should be good for Japan, Mr Tsuruyoshi Yamaguchi, of the opposition Japanese Socialist Party, said. "Times are changing," he told the Lower House budget committee. "Japan should hold preliminary discussions rather than wait to be consulted in order to confirm that nuclear weapons are not brought into Japanese territory."

In response, the Government ruled out an approach to the US. That was not good enough for Mr Yamaguchi, who was instrumental in cutting off the morning debate on the budget.

Sanctions countered: North Korea is retaliating against US and Japanese sanctions by freezing relations. The US sanctions were "like a thief crying 'stop thief'". Pyongyang said, denouncing US attempts to insult and impair the sovereignty and dignity of North Korea.

Takeshita poser on US nuclear weapons

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Takeshita Government has been subjected to a rare grilling over the possible presence in Japan of American nuclear weapons.

Twice in Parliament yesterday, the opposition broke off debate on the budget to focus on the Japan-US Security Treaty and its vague provisions on US rights. Japan's non-nuclear principles prohibit the manufacture, possession or storage on Japanese soil of nuclear weapons, and the treaty commits the US to consult in advance if any nuclear weapons are to be transported to Japan.

The Tokyo Government works on the assumption that if the US does not mention it then no weapons are coming in. The opposition does not buy this polite fiction, and yesterday took advantage of the new US-Soviet INF treaty to beat the Government with its nuclear policy.

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co-operatives at factories to manufacture consumer goods. Because the right to work is guaranteed under the Soviet constitution, unemployment has long been officially declared abolished. But Western economists believe that it is already running at between 2 and 3 per cent a year.

The experts also claim that if the reforms are to be effective, job redistribution will have to take place across the country, and that many of those sacked in Moscow will have to leave the city to find work.

Moscow publishes a 'situations vacant' column

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Haunted by the spectre of widespread desertion from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms, the Soviet authorities have begun publishing the country's first list of job vacancies, the Kremlin's novel equivalent of the West's "situations vacant" columns.

The appearance of the list follows an official prediction from Mr Leonid Kostin, the deputy head of the state labour committee, that up to 16 million people could lose their jobs by the turn of the century

as the streamlining of the antiquated economy progresses.

According to the official paper, *Moskovskaya Pravda*, the job bulletin will initially be restricted to circulation among overstaffed ministries and state institutes in the capital where the cuts will be felt first.

About 60,000 employees at Moscow-based enterprises — some 50 per cent of their staff — face the prospect of redundancy by 1990.

Employees under threat will be informed about other jobs available and prospective sal-

aries in the new bulletin. In addition, a network of employment exchanges is being created to deal with personal inquiries and unemployment benefits will be established.

Despite repeated pledges by the Kremlin that unemployment will never become a problem on the Western scale, Moscovites are showing concern at the prospect of joblessness. According to Western diplomats, this is stifling conservative resistance to reform.

Moskovskaya Pravda reported that the job bulletin would soon go on sale in the

city's hundreds of *mosgovsprom* (state information) kiosks. "In other words, effective measures are being taken to provide personnel dismissed as a result of reorganizations and cuts with adequate work," it stated.

Although the initial burst will be felt by the white-collar sector, the paper made clear that it would soon spread to the shop floor. It said that a bulletin giving job vacancies for blue-collar workers in the industrial and service sector was being prepared.

According to official figures, the Kremlin intends by the

year 2000 to reduce the numbers working in industry from 52 per cent of the total workforce to between 40 and 45 per cent, and to increase the service sector from 27 to 35 per cent.

"The process of redistribution of labour will also take place inside the industries and even inside separate enterprises," *Tass* reported. "The laid-off workforce will make it possible to introduce second and third shifts, to set up services in charge of plant reconstruction, and teams to repair flats of workmates. There are also plans to set up

co-operatives at factories to manufacture consumer goods.

East Germans free dissidents to fall in line with glasnost

From Richard Bassett, East Berlin

In a surprise about-turn aimed at heading off the escalating conflict between State and Church, the East German authorities announced yesterday that all those arrested in connection with disturbances last month in East Berlin would be freed by Sunday.

One of those in prison, Frau Vera Wollenberger, was reported to have been freed last night. Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the lawyer and trusted adviser of the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, told journalists yesterday that the 20 young East Berliners, some of whom were sentenced to imprisonment only two days ago, would be given permission to leave the country if they wished.

All those in prison had taken part in or had attempted to join an official parade on January 17 marking the deaths of two German communists. Most have no desire to leave East Germany.

Unconfirmed reports that two of them — the songwriter Stephan Krawczyk and his wife, Freya Klier, the theatre producer, together with their 12-year-old daughter, Nadia, were already in West Ger-

many — were greeted by friends with dismay.

Herr Krawczyk is very much the symbol of the different strands of extra-state activity which have drawn together in East Germany during the past few weeks. By expelling him to West Germany, the authorities have been able to buy themselves breathing space.

By releasing his fellow prisoners even though they will remain in East Berlin, the Government seems to have been motivated by a number of considerations. It has prevented the arrests becoming an unwelcome focus for all dissident activity both within and without the Church. It has also avoided jeopardizing after 10 years of peaceful relations with the Church a useful *modus vivendi* constructed largely on Herr Honecker's own initiative.

Moreover, releasing the prisoners enables the East Germans to avoid being branded as the country out of step with Mr Gorbachev's wind of *glasnost* in Eastern Europe. It has also helped avoid what looked like, as late as yesterday, a rapid deterioration in East Germany's relations with West Germany.

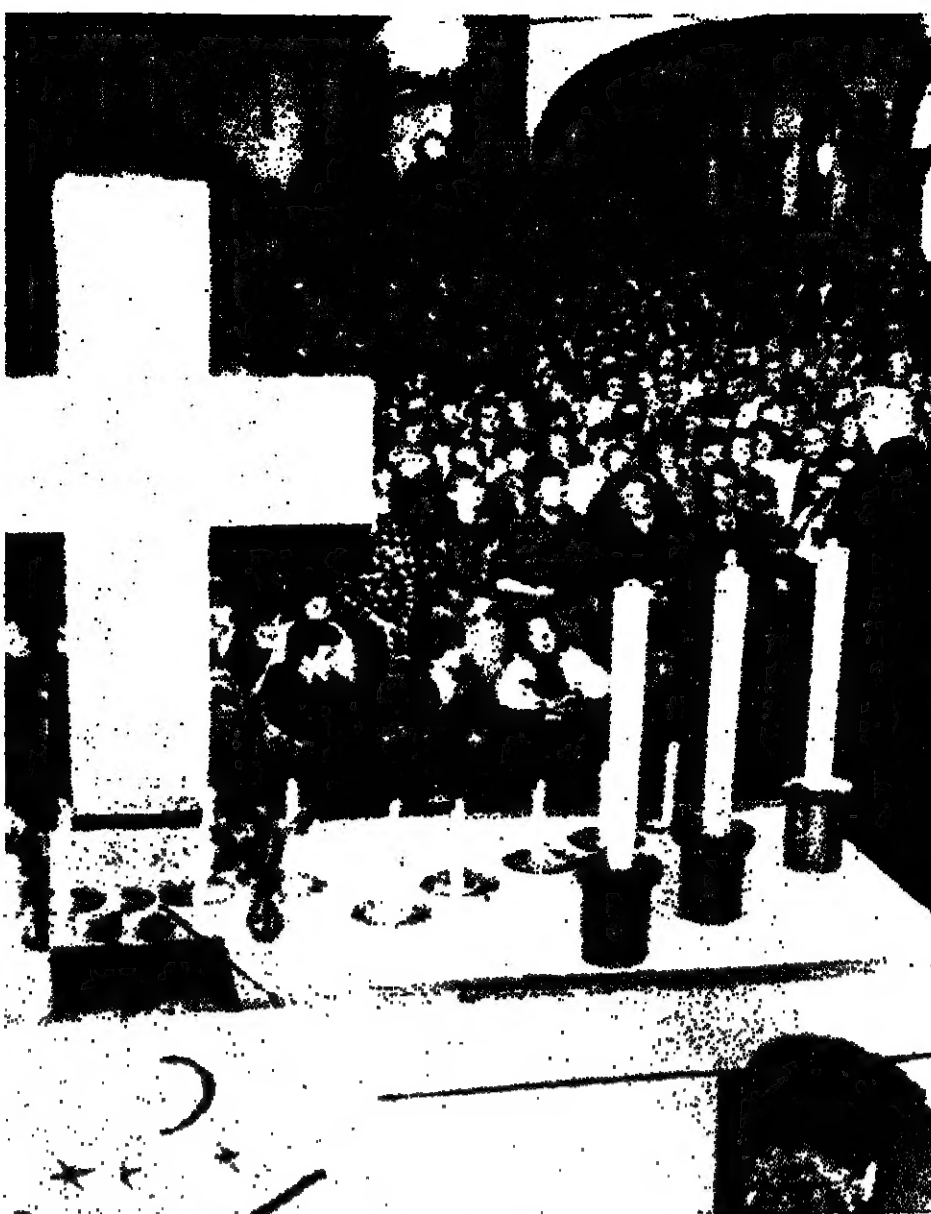
It is significant that yesterday's decision followed talks between Herr Vogel and the West German state secretary. West talks have been motivated partly by the trials in the wake of which East Germany's official press had become increasingly hostile towards Bonn.

Irrespective of these West German considerations however the decision also reflects the widespread fear in East Germany that the situation could easily have got out of control.

On Monday night, more than 2,000 young East Berliners attended a Mass in the church of St Bartholomew to offer up prayers for those in prison. The service was echoed on a smaller scale throughout the country, especially in the cities of Dresden, Leipzig, and Jena.

In virtually every church, priests reaffirmed in sermons that those in prison were "neither spies nor agents of West Germany", as had been alleged by the authorities.

Church activists late on Monday night insisted that the trials had been an attempt to brand their activities as criminal.



East Berliners packing the church of St Bartholomew at the Mass for the detained dissidents. Similar services were held at churches throughout East Germany.

Ancient cures on show for Prince

From Our Correspondent Sydney

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday discovered ancient aboriginal cures for modern illnesses on the final stage of their bicentennial tour of Australia in Crocodile Dundee country.

After a four-hour flight from Sydney to the Northern Territory, they met leaders of Australia's aboriginal community who are co-operating in a project to document medicinal secrets that date back 40,000 years on the use of plants, fruits, trees and animal products.

The royal couple, visiting the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Darwin, heard how powder from termite mounds can stop diarrhoea, how acacia plants can be used to remove warts, and how the favourite food of koalas — eucalyptus — can treat colds.

Earlier, at her last engagement in Sydney, the Princess was at her most relaxed on a visit to a Barnardo's day-care centre.

One of the girls, Trudi, aged five, startled the Princess by taking a running jump into her arms and then for several minutes clinging on and refusing to let go.

The Princess said: "It's just heaven being back with children again."

Noreiga facing charge in Miami

From Christopher Thomas Washington

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the military strongman of Panama, is about to be indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami for links to the multi-billion-dollar Latin American drug trade. Federal prosecutors in the state said yesterday.

A tide of allegations against General Noriega has created enormous tensions between Panama and the United States, which has its vitally important Southern Command based there.

The State Department is now openly pressing General Noriega to step down and clear the way for a democratic government.

The strains intensified yesterday with a string of detailed allegations against General Noriega by Senator José Blandon, who was Panama's consul general in New York until he was dismissed last month. He testified for five hours before the grand jury in Miami last week.

Senator Blandon said in a long interview with *The Washington Post*, published yesterday, that General Noriega had obtained pay-offs and had hidden profits of millions of dollars for himself and a group of Panamanian military and civilian associates by selling government services.

500 years in South Africa

Botha revelling in white pageantry

From Michael Horasby, Mossel Bay, South Africa

This picturesque seaside resort and fishing town on the Cape south coast will be the venue today for the first of several pageantry-filled celebrations marking milestones in the white history of South Africa.

President Botha will be on hand to greet a replica of the ship in which the Portuguese explorer, Bartolomeu Dias, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and became the first European to set foot on South African soil when he landed here exactly 500 years ago.

This year also holds the 150th anniversary of the Great Trek, an event embedded in the folk memory of Afrikaners, and the 300th anniversary of the arrival at the Cape of the first French Huguenots, whose descendants are an important strand in the make-up of the dominant white tribe.

Coincidentally, 1988 also marks the completion of 40 years of uninterrupted National Party rule and 10 years of rule by Mr Botha, first as Prime Minister and then, from 1984, as executive President.

Mr Botha's wish to preside over these momentous commemorations is said to have played no small part in his

of himself and the National Party.

The most emotive anniversary is that marking the Great Trek, the ex-wagon migration by Boers and their families and coloured servants into the then unknown interior of the country, which began in the late 1830s.

Over 10 years about 14,000 people joined the trek. The *voortrekkers*, as they are now known, were revolting against British rule in the Cape and against the abolition of slavery.

Embellished by nationalist historians, the Great Trek and the famous victory over the Zulus at the Battle of Blood River in 1838 came to assume almost mythical proportions, symbolizing the Afrikaners' determination to preserve their identity and independence at any cost.

Mindful, perhaps, that he is now trying to pitch his political appeal at English and Afrikaner whites, as well as at moderate blacks, Mr Botha had hoped to preside over a fairly restrained commemoration at the bunker-like Voortrekker Monument on a hill outside Pretoria.

But a coalition of extreme right-wing groups, including the breakaway Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht, is planning to stage its own simulation of the trek, with Afrikaners dressing in period costume and driving ox-wagons over the routes followed by their forebears.

It was just such a restaging of the trek in 1938, on the occasion of its centenary, that gave a powerful emotional charge to the swelling forces of Afrikaner nationalism, and helped the National Party to oust the anglophile General Smuts in 1948.

Dr Treurnicht and his colleagues may be hoping that if their celebrations are well attended they will pave the way for a right-wing advance in municipal elections next October, and in a general election which must be held before the end of next year unless the Constitution is amended.

At the same time, revisionist Afrikaner historians are busy debunking the myths surrounding the trek. One recently declared that many of the *voortrekker* leaders were "egotists, sought honour for themselves and exaggerated their role in events".

The Huguenot celebrations, set for April, have so far been spared political controversy. No more than a few hundred Huguenots ever came to South Africa, and they were quickly absorbed into the mainly Dutch-speaking Afrikaner community. But many famous Afrikaner names — Malan, Malherbe, Du Toit and Du Plessis — still betray their French origin.



rejection of suggestions that, at the age of 72, he ought to be thinking of retirement.

The appropriateness of the celebrations, which reflect faithfully the Eurocentric bias of the history books on which whites are still reared, has been questioned at a time when Pretoria claims to want negotiation with the leaders of the country's disenfranchised black majority.

Leaders of the coloured community, the mixed-blood South Africans whose distant ancestors include the Hottentot people Dias met when he landed here, are boycotting the Mossel Bay festivities.

Among their reasons is the continued segregation of the town's benches, which is being relaxed to permit people of all races to attend the Dias ceremonies but will be reimposed afterwards.

It is, however, not only coloureds and blacks who are critical. At a time of unusual ferment and division among Afrikaners, there are many who resent what they see as an attempt by Mr Botha to exploit the heritage of the *volk* (people) for the greater glory

Doubts on Cuban move

Johannesburg — The South African Government yesterday reacted with scepticism to Washington claims that it has persuaded Angola and Cuba to agree to the total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angolan territory (Ray Kennedy writes).

In part the acceptance came during talks in Luanda last week between Mr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State, and Angolan and Cuban officials. The Cuban pull-out is crucial to the implementation of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia. Pretoria insists it will not withdraw from Namibia as long as foreign forces remain in Angola.

Meanwhile, three black women have been murdered in continuing factional violence in the area of Pietermaritzburg in Natal, police reported yesterday. Two were stabbed and one was burned to death, bringing to 13 the toll in the area in two days.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Italy's reformed terrorists settle down into a quiet life

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Roberto Vitelli's shopping bags contained a few automatic pistols, still warm from the bank raid, and wads of even hotter, neatly-wrapped lire notes. There was time for a coffee before the blue long-distance coach left Viterbo and so Vitelli and his three friends stood at the counter, glancing out of the window, talking a little too loudly, anxious to get back to a safe house in Rome.

When the two middle-aged carabinieri strode in and

● The events of 1968 were a kind of passage to democracy ●

asked the group to open the bags the terrorists drew their guns, tried briefly to bargain, and then let loose; a sprinkling of glass, two more bodies closer to the revolution.

"I was scared, of course," Vitelli says. Of course, of course. Nowadays he drinks his coffee in one of two restaurants authorized by the police. He does not take sugar. He does not kill people.

Vitelli looks, behaves and is in every respect a pleasant man, a young-looking 32 in a smart pullover, whose eyes mist over when he thinks of his younger sister. He is serving the kind of sentence that was common enough in the Red Brigade's era: life plus 30 years. With full remission,

he should be out in the year 2003.

Vitelli, the erstwhile member of *Prima Linea* (Front Line), one of the key terrorist factions, takes the 311 bus from Rebibbia prison to the run-down offices of *New Times*, a small ecumenical magazine. He works until one o'clock — he is not allowed to leave the office during this time — then goes to the restaurant, returns at four, writes until the evening and rushes to catch the bus back to jail in time for roll call. In addition to his work, he is allowed 45 days' holiday a year from the maximum-security prison.

These privileges are now extended to about 40 terrorists who have "dissociated" themselves from violence. They and the hundreds of others who were rounded up in the 1970s and 1980s are waiting for more: for an amnesty that will bring them back into society.

As in West Germany and France, there is a lively debate about how to digest the terrorist era; in Italy, the worst affected (terrorists of the right and left caused the death of 409 people between 1968 and 1983), it is at its most potent.

A recent opinion poll in the *Europeo* magazine revealed that 66 per cent of those questioned did not agree with a general amnesty for former terrorists, 19 per cent did agree, and 15 per cent did not have an opinion. Asked if they feared another period of vi-



Roberto Vitelli, left, and Ugo Melchionda: "We still want to work out ways of protecting the underdogs".

olence, 73 per cent said they did, 23 per cent did not, and 4 per cent did not have an opinion.

Ugo Melchionda, serving 16 years for activities in the Workers' Power movement (wounding a guard in a jewellery raid, blowing up a government computer, taking part in a prison revolt and membership of a terrorist organization), has a similar lifestyle to that of his friend Vitelli. He goes to a computer

workshop most days of the week and, with Vitelli, he has worked out a scheme that would teach former terrorists how to use new technology.

I met them first at the offices of *New Times*, where Vitelli is working on an article about Catholic and Protestant attitudes towards 1968, the year Italian universities were set aflame by disgruntled youngsters. The murder of Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister

kidnapped by the Red Brigade, came in 1978. And in 1983 they are drinking coffee on day-release from prison.

"You have to understand that 1968 was a kind of passage to democracy for Italy," Vitelli says, adjusting his spectacles. "Britain and France already had their revolutions centuries before, which for better or worse resolved the question of workers' rights. But in Italy the workers were decades

behind the rest of Europe, earning nothing.

"On top of this there was the repressed role of women and a class-ridden education system. Before 1968 no worker's child went to the classical grammar school — true, it was free, but most could not afford to buy the books, nor could the family do without the extra pair of hands."

Vitelli, whose father was a

stonemason, and Melchionda, whose parents are clerics, are in agreement. Melchionda, a swarthy, clever southerner from Potenza, says: "I was 12 at the time (of 1968) and I remember trying to explain it to my parents who were voting Communists, trying to explain why I, as a schoolboy, was attempting to change the system and challenge the teachers. A policeman came round to complain and they were mad at me."

The 1970s, the "years of lead", were with the exception

● I was a schoolboy attempting to change the system ●

of a few gurus, run by schoolboys or students at the beginning of their university courses. Vitelli was reading art history in Rome, Melchionda medicine in Bologna, but neither completed his studies.

They see their terrorist years as an extension (regretted now but still logical) of an essentially correct diagnosis. "It was a time of great armed struggle," Vitelli said, "in the Italian tradition of revolution and resistance. Remember that in the 1970s there was still a strong fascist tendency and it had to be fought."

Melchionda: "I thought there could be a revolution in the Mediterranean, not a classic Marxist revolution, but a specifically southern revolt, involving Italy, Greece, Spain and the PLO."

Moro's kidnap and murder was a watershed. Hundreds of people were rounded up and the police broke the back of the terrorist movement. The Red Brigades continued to murder, but more and more members turned state's evidence. The Front Line cancelled and abandoned its list of proposed assassinations, while Workers' Power — which had always claimed that its killings were accidental — now tried to avoid guns altogether. "I shot to wound," says Melchionda of his jewellery raid, and smiles charmingly.

The Moro case also sowed

the ideas of conspiracy; that somebody must have been behind Italian terrorism. Moro was, at the time of his kidnap, arguing for a full-scale alliance with the Communists. Powerful forces may have directed funds to the Red Brigades and other terrorist groups in order to stop him in his tracks: that, at least, is the conspiracy theory.

In any case, the number of bank raids indicates that money was very short. It was during raids that most of the killing was done, not in the brutal, absurd "people's tribunals" that executed dozens of judges and policemen. The transition from revolutionary role-playing to murder is a fundamental one; most terrorists had not even admitted a moral dimension to their actions before they killed.

Vitelli and Melchionda say that the prison culture has eroded the old divisions between the terrorist groups. Some terrorists have settled down to a kind of sedate, slippered life that they once despised in their parents.

"We have talked ourselves out," says Melchionda, "there has been nothing else to do for the last 10 years."

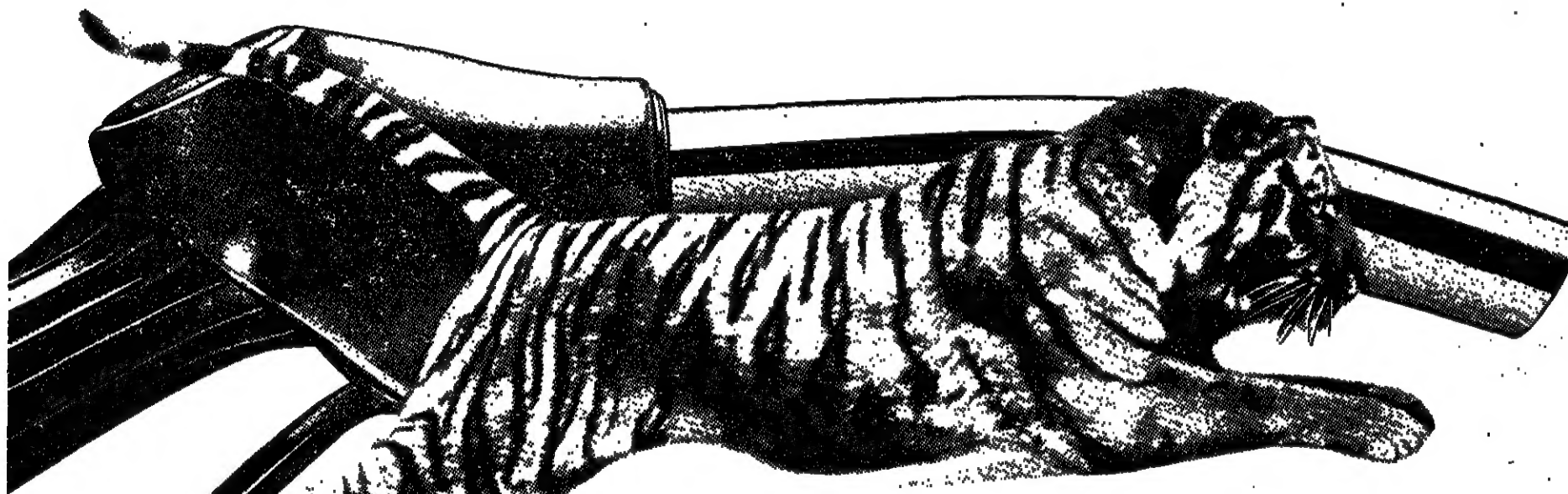
Most of those in jail are now entirely apolitical. If given an amnesty, they will probably

● We have talked ourselves out in the last 10 years ●

return to their studies and become Porsche-driving lawyers, doctors and journalists. Vitelli and Melchionda, however — though they have dissociated themselves from terrorism — never turned state's evidence and, in their way, still have political ambitions: they want to campaign for pollution controls, more freedom in the education and prison systems.




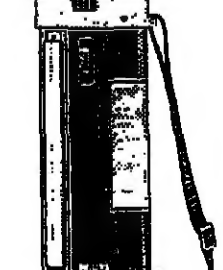
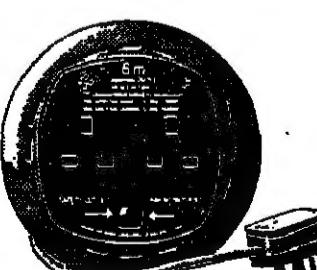
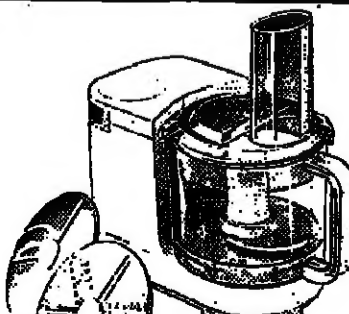

The two 32-year-olds are now, they say, aligned to the social democracy of West Germany or Sweden, or indeed the British Labour Party. But will the Italian political system be able to welcome back its terrorist prodigals?

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Koivisto back by 48% 'landslide'

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

President Koivisto has ensured his re-election for a second six-year term by winning 47.9 per cent of the popular vote and 144 of the 301 members of the Council of Electors in Finland's elections on Sunday and Monday.

But he fell short of the 50 per cent of the popular vote needed for an outright win, and conceded that he was "slightly disappointed" with the results.

His victory was, however, a landslide in a multi-party country, where even the largest parties seldom gain more than a quarter of the votes in parliamentary elections. His share of the vote was 5 per cent higher than six years ago.

President Koivisto's re-election at the Council of Electors meeting on February 15 is thus a certainty, even though he is seven short of an absolute majority. No parties have indicated that they would be willing to try to reach agreement to oust him.

The opposition conservatives, indeed, have said that they will support him in the final round.

The other clear winner in the elections was Mr Paavo Vayrynen, the Centre Party leader, who received 20.1 per cent of the direct vote against the 18.1 per cent of his arch rival, Mr Harri Holkeri, the conservative Prime Minister. These two non-socialist candidates were already fighting the 1994 presidential election rather than trying to defeat Dr Koivisto this time.

Mr Vayrynen strengthened his position considerably, and will be able to make life difficult for Mr Holkeri's coalition Government.

The Council of Electors will vote three times if necessary. The final choice will be made in the third round between the two strongest candidates, but it is quite possible that Dr Koivisto will receive the seven extra votes needed in the first vote.

Letter from Paris

Métro magnates caught on hop

Although it remains untested, I have a theory that a commuter could enter the Métro stark naked and emerge patently clad from head to foot by the enterprising merchants of subterranean Paris. No danger of going hungry en route, either, with everything from fresh fruit and veg. to delicious Moroccan couscous on offer.

As for entertainment, how about a six-piece combo playing thunderous "afro-jazz", Mozart from a trio in evening dress, a troupe of acrobats, a comically incompetent escapologist? To an old hand on the London Tube, the richness and diversity of life beneath the Parisian cobbles is a constant delight.

Coming up for air at the Opéra station near *The Times* office, I can usually reckon on passing half-a-dozen makeshift stalls offering pineapples, bananas and oranges, excellent cakes, handmade leatherwork, racks of suits and ties, and fashionable shoes by the hundred.

Since many of them have neglected to obtain a permit from the RATP, which runs the Métro, stallholders are very much on the qui vive for the approach of authority. It is quite a sight, believe me, to watch 60 summer dresses or half a dozen crates of kiwi fruit disappear in a flash into bulging but innocent-seeming suitcases.

Naturally, the RATP takes a dim view of such goings-on, if only because it derives a handsome revenue from the traders it licenses to operate in

the Métro. The florist at my local station was complaining the other day that her trade suffered increasingly from the "types" who home in on potential customers as soon as they step off a train.

In an attempt to reduce this flourishing *commerce à la servette* (on the hop), the masters of the Métro have just decreed that from next week, for reasons of "hygiene", no more fruit and vegetables can be sold underground. Inevitably, this is going to hit very hard at the small community of cheerful north Africans, licensed and otherwise, who seem to have cornered this side of the business.

As their spokesman, M el-Ayed, remarked in the newspaper *Libération* the other day, the stalls are greatly appreciated by Parisians, who pick up a bag of ripe avocados on the way home to dinner. "And with so much unemployment around, this sort of work at least gives people a chance to retain their dignity," he observed.

Apart from which, the bustling trade provides a sense of security, not to mention an invaluable source of directions, for a great many passengers.

The picture is not all gloom, however, for Métro travellers. At the busy Porte Maillot station it is now possible to buy a tolerably fresh loaf of French bread from an automatic dispenser. The sale of wine, alas, remains strictly prohibited.

Philip Jacobson

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SPECTRUM

Medicine for the managers

Money lies at the root of the hospital crisis, but how well is the existing NHS budget spent? Jill Sherman and William Greaves asked hospital managers about the daily financial juggling act

Barbara Young came into the world just three days after the birth of the National Health Service. Her mother, unaware of the social revolution which was to grace the last hours of her pregnancy, had already booked a bed in the fee-paying clinic. "So I suppose that makes me one of the last private babies to be born into the working classes," she says with an irrepressibly cheerful grin.

Both Young and the NHS are now approaching their 40th birthday, and today she is one of its 192 new-look district managers who were brought in five years ago to replace its old network of conscientious but committee-bound administrators. And, last summer, when she became the first woman president in the history of the Institute of Health Service Management, she didn't need any extra-sensory perception to know that her near-twin was headed for a crisis.

It is merely the speed of the NHS's decline into what many pessimists have already diagnosed as terminal sickness which has caught the Institute unaware.

"We are making our own inquiry into what has happened and how it can be put right," she says. "I announced it in June, we began it in September and we plan to come out with our recommendations in May. Now all hell's let loose and I'm worried that ill-researched and ill-thought-through decisions will have been made in the meantime."

But does the new breed of all-powerful district managers, over whose institute Young presides, have any right to be judge at its own inquest? Has it succeeded in replacing bureaucracy with boardroom efficiency, or have the sins of the old administration been visited upon its successors? Can business methods and commercial accountability ever share beds with the altruistic ideals of free health? In short, how effectively are the new NHS managers managing?

The right wing of the political spectrum believes them to be far too unenterprising and dependent on the government cheque book. Where, it demands, are the shopping precincts in hospital foyers and the sponsors with their names emblazoned over bandages and across surgeons' chests? And the left wing, scarcely surprisingly, accuses them of vulgar commercialism in the

way they are selling the democratic concept of the health service down the river.

"So long as we are annoying them both equally I am pretty sure we're on the right lines. With so much contentious nonsense flying around, we must be the small, still voice of reason," says Miss Young, who combines the Institute presidency with her daily job as general manager of London's Paddington and North Kensington Health Authority — comprising the world-famous St Mary's Hospital and the third most socially deprived district in Britain.

Since moving to Paddington five years ago from Haringey, where she was district administrator, her self-styled "bullying tactics" have produced cost savings of an average £1 million a year and a revenue of £2 million a year from private and overseas patients, as well as generating £2.6 million for funding such projects as an AIDS programme and continued the reduction in the number of hospitals from nine to five.

Every year the district spends £4 million on new buildings or refurbishment, treats 29,000 in-patients and 107,000 accident or emergency cases, and screens and

over responsibility for millions of mentally ill, chronically sick and handicapped people who currently come under NHS care.

Miss Young agrees that many councils would be ideally placed to administer such community care but has one serious reservation: "Those areas in which the need is greatest are exactly the ones whose local authorities are most severely rate-capped."

Why they are rate-capped is no concern of hers — the fact is they will have difficulty in finding the resources and people will suffer.

Nor is she happy with the philosophy, expressed last week by junior health minister, Edwin Currie, that the nation's health would be best served on a two-tier system, with those who could afford it turning to private insurance and the NHS looking after the remainder. "Look at the system in the United States," she says, "and you discover that one of the things that happens is that the poor and the chronically sick get a bum deal."

"Competition is not interested in areas where the potential is low and there are now 40 million people in the States who don't have access to a decent health service. I don't think people in this country really want to see a two-tier system."

The next move towards greater efficiency, to be recommended by Sir Roy Griffiths, managing director of J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, and Mrs Thatcher's adviser on the NHS, is for Britain's town halls to take

treating 42,000 people in health clinics, schools or their own homes.

"I have a management staff of 250 people here and our costs are 3.9 per cent of turnover. That's a pretty respectable statistic by anyone's standards," she says. "The Health Service has delivered a finer programme of cost efficiency than any other British public service in the last five years. We perform better than any other health service in the developed world. And yet there's still room for improvement."

It's hard to be efficient when you have to spend so much time telling people how efficient you are!



Prescription for a better service: Barbara Young, general manager of the Paddington health authority, has cut costs and raised revenue

Initiative is not enough

One man who epitomizes the new spirit of commercial adventure within the NHS is ironically a one-time Labour councillor. Now describing himself as a political agnostic, Dr Ken Grant is district general manager of City and Hackney Health Authority, which includes St Bartholomew's Hospital, and in the past year has introduced a succession of controversial income-generating innovations.

In that time he has set up two *in vitro* fertilization clinics with the private sector, shared medical equipment with a private hospital, started charging other authorities for services, and opened a fee-paying breast cancer clinic to screen women aged over 40 in the City.

"We are now building up a relationship with a private hospital so we can obtain funds when our doctors refer business there," says Grant, whose scheme to introduce sponsored operations at Barts has so far failed to attract the

kind of dynamic managers who run major companies — and who recommended the switch from district administrators to managers — believes that the quality of NHS management today is "quite good — but patchy".

There are enough examples of well-run hospitals to show what can be done, he says, and "a handful" of managers he would be happy to have with him at Sainsbury's. Out of 192 districts in the country, that sounds ominously like damnation with faint praise.

To this suggestion, Sir Roy responds that an NHS manager with control over a budget of around £75 million — in the same league as the top 20 or 30 companies in the country — earns about £30,000 a year, which is not sufficient to attract the people with the same massive experience and support back-up enjoyed by big business.

On this, at least, Miss Young is totally in agreement. "Compared with other European countries our salaries for medical and non-medical staff are very low," she says. "If we are going to have a National

Health Service which has the interest of the public at heart, there have got to be incentives so that doctors and other professional staff are motivated to provide it.

"Of course we can, and must, look at ways in which we can generate income. Doing deals with the private sector — commercial sponsors, Kentucky Fried Chicken in the front hall, Adidas heart transplants, that kind of thing — is all very well if they can be achieved without diverting staff from their main purpose."

"We even discussed asking Virgin Atlantic to sponsor our nurses' training."

"If we're lucky, in this district we'll make £1 million a year from commercial methods. But out of a budget of £80 million, that isn't going to solve the problems of the health service. Something as fundamental as health shouldn't really have to depend on other people's generosity."

So are there no obvious ways in which she could improve the efficiency of the district? "There is still too much bureaucracy at my level and above. Twenty per cent of my work is not about running my health district but simply being accountable. It's hard to be efficient when you have to spend so much time telling people how efficient you are!"

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Fooled by a freak

The 'hurricane' caught the Met Office cold, but will the inquest clear the air?

It was an ill wind that blew the British Met Office no good at all last October. In a country obsessed with the weather, failing to predict the worst storm in centuries was a blunder of major proportions. The fact that European weather centres had put out warnings well in advance meant the disaster encompassed national pride as well as life and property.

On the night of October 15/16 1987, a force 11 "violent storm" with gusts of hurricane strength, struck Britain. It caused, in the words of Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, "the most widespread night of disaster in the South-east of England since 1945".

The final toll was 19 people killed, at least 15 million trees destroyed and hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage. An immediate inquiry was launched by the Government into why the Meteorological Office at Bracknell in Berkshire had failed to predict the storm and give warnings.

The results of that internal inquiry, whose findings have been vented by two independent scientists, are due to be published later this month.

What the inquiry will make clear is that, despite the technology now available to the meteorological offices of the world, if a computer is not given enough information, it cannot be blamed when it comes up with dull answers.

Britain has thousands of miles of open sea between it and North America, where the seeds of our weather are sown. "Observations over sea areas are something we're desperately short of," says Dr Bob Harwood of Edinburgh University's Department of Meteorology.

Satellites are being used to cover the northern Atlantic, but most go blind when the clouds close in. More sophisticated satellites are being developed "but it'll be a long time before such technology is proven," says Harwood.

Old-fashioned weather-ships can operate come rain or shine. However, economies have reduced Britain's fleet to just one, Ocean Ship Lima, stationed in the Atlantic.

Even before the report comes out, the Met Office has taken action to improve its predictions. Last month it bought a £5 million computer which is eight times more powerful than its current machine and capable of almost 3,500 million operations a second.

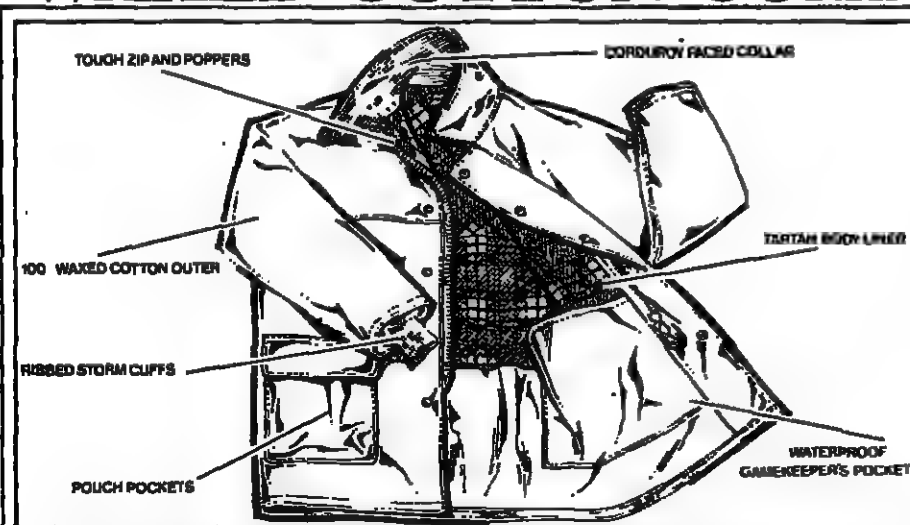
Even so, Professor Robert Pearce of Reading University, one of the two outside referees of the forthcoming report, says there is no substitute for being better informed. "Yes, you get better predictions by using a smaller grid, but you still need weather stations in the right place."

But Pearce warns that rare phenomena are always going to be difficult to deal with. The Great Storm was extraordinarily capricious, changing direction and stopping altogether at one point, while it gathered its strength for the final onslaught. A freak rise in temperature at 10pm on the 15th, producing the warmest night of the week, further confounded the predictions.

"The more extreme the event, the more difficult it is to predict," says Pearce. "That is one of the crosses the Met Office will have to bear."

Robert Matthews

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NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

It is a noble ambition to improve the jargon of the European Community, as CEEG (Consumers in the European Community Group) and ERICA (European Research into Consumer Affairs) have just announced they intend to do. It is indeed worthy of much improvement. Though I do not see how FOFTA (Proliferation of Tiresome Acronyms) helps their case. As part of the Community's People's Europe (PE) initiative they note that the Day of Judgement (DJ) is going to be more confusing than Noah's cattle drive, since the EC classifies both sheep and goats as sheep. In EuroSpeak, nuts are classified as shell-fruit, flowers are called nut-cattle, and cows are adult bovine animals (see also buffalo).

The official EuroDefinition is that milk "shall mean exclusively the mammary secretion obtained from one or more milkings without either addition thereto or extraction therefrom".

Two cheers for them. Plain English is usually preferable to the other sort; and we must all try to dock our speech, and writing of prolixities, simplify and clarify, and say precisely what we mean, and not a word more or less. But it is populist rubbish to pretend that everything (Einstein's Theory of Relativity, Flannery O'Connor, pretty well any Act of Parliament or the European Community) can be rewritten in language that the average punter can understand.

Reading European Community documents is always going to be a manic exercise, mainly



sport, MEPs, press officers and journeymen are there to interpret and explain what they mean to the rest of us. C'est leur métier.

Like most old words, jargon has many imbricated meanings. When it first came into English from Old French in Chaucer, it meant the twittering of birds. Then it gradually came to mean unintelligible and ugly-sounding language, like, for example, the jargon of structuralists. Then it came to mean general obfuscation, the use of long words to show off or to hide the poverty or absence of meaning, pretentiousness, circumlocution, and all padder.

Over the centuries it has acquired other meanings also. Specialists such as brain surgeons, computer hackers, linguistic philosophers and Eurocrats inevitably develop jargons to communicate rapidly with other specialists in a kind of professional shorthand. It is a natural process.

If we insisted that everything that specialists said and wrote be translated into plain, one-syllable English that the

man writing interminably for

good, literature, genuine, and popularity. And I am not sure what we mean by an age like our own, which in its attitude to "good literature" is much like all the previous ages.

This may sound elitist, and even Fogeyish. But the truth is that what is usually meant by good literature, e.g. *King Lear* or *Anna Karenina*, is always going to have a tiny readership compared with simple-minded pop — written by Catherine Cookson or Jeffrey Archer.

Of course popular genres like crime and romance can be brilliantly as well as badly done (P.D. James, George Orwell, Tony Price). But the demand that everybody should be able to understand and enjoy everything written is as absurd as demanding that everybody should be able to swim the Channel.

The same mistaken, anti-elitist populism is at the heart of the Folio literary dinner on tomorrow, when Michael Foot will propose and Fay Weldon oppose the motion, "It is no use pretending that in an age like our own good literature can have any genuine popularity."

As in all good debating motions, there are a lot of value words in there. It all depends on what you mean by

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ACROSS

- 1 Make useless (8)
- 2 Rucketer (8)
- 3 Can (3)
- 4 Garden party, picnic (4,9)
- 5 Light pastry (4)
- 6 Highest point (6)
- 7 Tragic 5 Disown 8 Hue 9 Nuclei 10 Nougat 11 Rhea 12 Demijohn 14 Robertson 17 Tetrapi 19 Kick 21 Candid 23 Blazon 24 Gnu 25 Vesray 26 System

DOWN

- 1 Nasty smell (6)
- 2 Adverse (8)
- 3 Can (3)
- 4 Garden party, picnic (4,9)
- 5 Light pastry (4)
- 6 Highest point (6)
- 7 Tragic 5 Disown 8 Hue 9 Nuclei 10 Nougat 11 Rhea 12 Demijohn 14 Robertson 17 Tetrapi 19 Kick 21 Candid 23 Blazon 24 Gnu 25 Vesray 26 System

SOLUTION TO NO 1478

ACROSS: 1 Tragic 5 Disown 8 Hue 9 Nuclei 10 Nougat 11 Rhea 12 Demijohn 14 Robertson 17 Tetrapi 19 Kick 21 Candid 23 Blazon 24 Gnu 25 Vesray 26 System

DOWN: 2 Rough 3 Golem 4 Chindit 5 Denim 6 Sou 7 Weir 8 John 9 Katus 10 Overawe 11 Omnibus 12 Podge

Deadlock for wedlock?



Part 3
The challenge
of change

Some say that if marriage is to endure, it will do so only with support. But must we change, or must it? And is marriage our best option? Julia Orange reports

If marriage were a motor car, it would have been banned by now. Its safety record is appalling — 170,000 breakdowns annually according to one marriage expert with a yearly "repair" bill to the nation of £2 billion. Most of us spend a great deal of energy trying to keep it on the road but what are its chances past the year 2000?

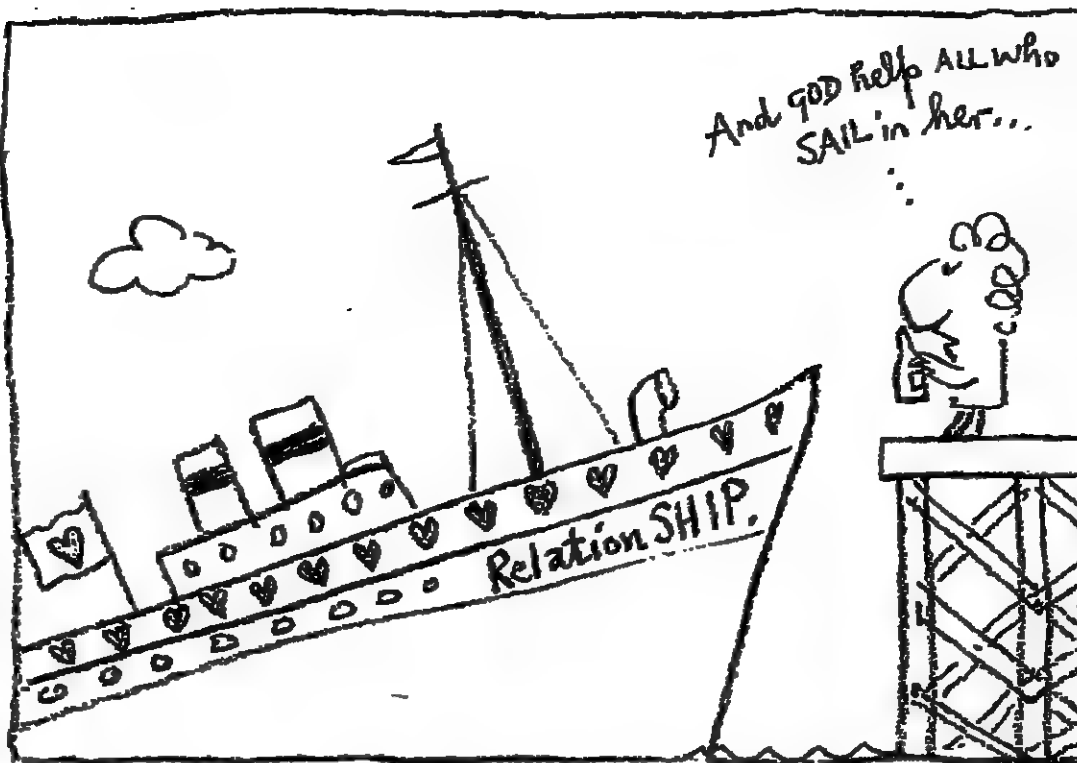
At first glance, not good. Last month an annual statistical report, innocently entitled *Social Trends* (published by HM Stationery Office) spelt it out: the UK has now one of the highest divorce rates in Western Europe — one in three current marriages will end in divorce; the number of households consisting of a single person has risen since 1951 from one in 10 to almost one in four; and illegitimacy is soaring (one in five births are now illegitimate). One of the difficulties of predicting the future of marriage, says Christopher Clulow, who is chairman of the Institute of Marital Studies at the Tavistock Centre, "is that marriage is both a social institution and a personal relationship and at a time of great social change all kinds of anomalies are built into it. How for instance to assess the impact of AIDS? Or the demographers who forecast an increase of elderly couples which will be an added

strain to modern marriages." One thing is clear, the old style family saloon, father at the wheel and his wife and children behind, will be less and less popular.

Dr Jack Dominian, who heads the Marriage Research Centre at the Middlesex Hospital, calls marital breakdown "a private agony and a public cost". He has made an approximate calculation of the cost of marital breakdown in Britain — taking in legal advice, supplementary benefits to the divorced and separated, children in care, the cost to the health service and to industry — that gives the figure of £2 billion. He laments the fact that we spend millions of pounds in picking up the pieces, and "nothing like enough into research into why marriages go wrong".

Dominian, who has been working in this field for 30 years, rejects the school of thought which says that we all expect too much from modern marriage, and that our present divorce statistics are the fault of wicked western society. "If marriage is to have a future," he says, "we must accept that we cannot put the clock back."

"We've had 80 years of Freud, 20 years or so of Masters and Johnson and whether we like it or not,



people do expect good sex and intelligence and emotional input to be part of the marriage package. Neither can we go back to the days when wives were well-behaved chattels." And yet he believes marriage "is still the best chance of human happiness most of us have".

But what is becoming clearer is that we are entering the era of the DIY marriage, or at least the era of the think-for-yourself one. No single model fits the unique and often contradictory demands of the modern couple. These choices can induce a kind of agoraphobia, a longing for the dictates of an institution. But where to turn?

Few look to the Church for guidance, and 50 per cent of marriages now take place in register offices. Even believers might

feel bewildered by the Church's attempts to come to terms with modern marriage. A recent report from the Church of England Synod, *An Honourable Estate*, describes matrimony as a state "which (at best) is a living parable in which human grace gives people a glimpse of what divine grace is like". But the Church spends little on marriage guidance counselling.

Dominian, who has been married for 33 years and is a Roman Catholic, is also highly critical of his Church's stand on marital and sexual matters. "They haven't done their homework, they haven't got to grips with change, and they have operated as though their responsibility begins and ends with the marriage ceremony."

The Government may pay lip service to the glorious state of

matrimony, but it also discriminates against traditional marriages, as Dame Joan Seccombe, the new Tory vice-chairman with special responsibility for women, recently pointed out, by a tax system which discriminates against stay-at-home wives, in favour of wives who go out to work.

Dominian feels that ever since the 1969 Divorce Act, "which allowed marriages to dissolve because of 'irretrievable breakdown'", we have had the worst of both worlds: very flexible divorce laws and no counselling to help people to deal with them. And high divorce rates have followed.

Dominian thinks there has been a "conspiracy of silence" about how painful divorce is. "Because our society finds pain and grief hard to accept, people deny the

pain of divorce. They deny they regret taking the step, deny it has hurt their children."

His prescription for the future, if marriage is to continue, is for more money to be spent helping people while they are married, and before they are married, to learn about the sometimes harsh realities of love.

As a nation we seem neurotically private in this respect, and it can be a great help when other people admit that love can hurt and that problems are completely normal.

It is also safe to predict that in the year 2000 we will continue to experience the same logical and illogical longing to live with members of the opposite sex, to have babies and to create families. Aids will make a difference, as some couples may marry rather than try a range of partners.

Co-habitation will probably continue to be the most spontaneous reaction to the soaring divorce rate. This once-daring sin is now commonplace. (Between 1979 and 1985 the number of women unmarried but co-habiting doubled.) For those with no religious beliefs, it is a choice with much to recommend it, although one family therapist warned: "It in no way eliminates the problem of trying to live with another person — you still have to decide who peels the potatoes. You can still feel crushed when it breaks up."

What is certainly true is that it carries less weighty baggage. Great mistakes can be avoided and corrected without the agony of divorce. The tax man smiles upon it. And the law increasingly respects co-habiting couples.

"From a legal point of view," according to Marcel Berlins (co-author with Clare Dyer of *Living Together*), "long-term stable relationships can come close to being treated like married relationships. And when such relationships split, it's increasingly common — if one party can prove they have made a substantial contribution — to get a share of the house."

Another alternative to the traditional marriage is the commuter marriage such as one where the woman whose husband has been made redundant would spend four days a week working in London and go home to cook and sort socks at the weekend. Other arrangements of the future will include the two-house couple, such as Woody Allen, who lives in an apartment on one side of Central Park, while his partner, Mia Farrow, lives on the other, and Margaret Drabble, the author, who lives in her house in Hampstead, while her husband Michael Holroyd, the biographer, lives in Kensington. They reportedly see each other several times a week and for holidays and at weekends.

The nannish section of our society may dismiss such arrangements as "not proper... too expensive for most people... bad for children", and so on, but divorce is expensive, bad for children and requires two houses, too. And if the marriage of the future is to teach us anything, it will be to keep an open mind.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Couture in miniature

Chic British mothers despair about the lamentable choice of stylish yet practical babywear, and Betty Jackson — one of the judges of the winning designs for the Peacocks Baby Fashion Awards 1988, announced yesterday — cannot be the only woman who is, as she says, "heartily sick of Care Bears on pastel jumpsuits". The £1,000 first prize was won by Lynn Mackie, of Edinburgh School of Art, for her mustard, grey and red playwear, specifically chosen, explains Jackson, "because it didn't have clowns and rainbows all over it". She believes babywear is "becoming more sophisticated, but not a moment too soon".

Peacocks are continuing to make the contribution by offering a paper pattern for a unisex playsuit, in three sizes (1-3 years) available by post to mothers everywhere who send a cheque for £1.25 (made payable to Peacocks UK Ltd) to Dept FAP, Peacocks Paper Pattern Offer, Peacocks, Rye Road, Huddersdon, Herts EN11 0EL.

Quote me...



"Children would have ruined my relationship with William. He had to come first. People say: 'Oh, when you get old, there is no one to take care of you'. But I see my friends' children are too busy with their own lives to care for their parents."

Susanna Walton

Screen scene

The irrepressible Miriam Stoppard is back on our screens again on Monday with a new series, *The Miriam Stoppard Health and Beauty Show*, which covers health, fitness, weight loss — happily, no drastic dieting — and for the first time on-screen, tries to make making-up less hard to do. The video-less who can't make the 11.30am regular Monday rendezvous can still get useful hints and tips, clearly illustrated, from the book of the show (Dorling Kindersley, £5.95). All this, of course, from a woman who once confessed she feels naked without her false eyelashes. "But I only mention them once," she says.

Pure cotton

Non-itchy clothes for sensitive skins are surprisingly hard to find, considering that 2 per cent of the British population suffers from severe eczema; many more people have eczema and other skin conditions which necessitate searching for garments which will not scratch or aggravate a rash. Cotton On is a catalogue designed to shorten the search for pure-cotton clothes free from chemical finishes, brightening dyes or nylon trimmings — and what is more the T-shirts, swimwear, sleepwear and children's clothing look stylish, too. For a free copy of the catalogue, write to them at 29 North Clifton Street, Lytham FY8 5HW, or telephone 0253 736611.

Josephine Fairley

It's the price you pay

Politicians frequently complain about "the tax on marriage" — the fact that many couples are better off not trying the knot officially. But a couple on a low joint income are still better off married than co-habiting under the present tax system, because together they receive larger tax allowances than they would if they were both single.

The more a couple earns the better off they will be by not being married. A married couple with a mortgage gets tax relief on the interest paid on up to £30,000 of the loan, an unmarried couple can claim this tax relief on up to £30,000 each.

The richer you are the richer you get if you stay unmarried, particularly if you have children. The unmarried higher income couple with two children qualify for the additional personal allowance paid to single parents. So if you remain single with two children your total tax saving can be more than £1,000 a year (an extra £600 tax relief on

the mortgage and £740 from additional allowances).

As you can see from the table, couples A and C (married) will find their tax position unchanged when they have two children, although all the couples with children will of course receive cash child benefit.

Couples B and D (unmarried), also with two children, will be paying far less tax than A and C: in addition to their single person's allowance of £2,425 each, they can also claim the additional personal allowance for single parents. Both men and women can claim this and if they have two children, they can each claim the allowance of £1,370 for one child giving them total tax allowances of £7,590 in the current year.

By remaining single when they have children, couple B save themselves an extra £740 and couple D save themselves £370, on top of any gain from extra mortgage interest tax relief.

Mary Lawson

THE ECONOMICS OF MARRIAGE

	His personal tax allowance	Her personal tax allowance	Total tax allowances	Mortgage tax relief	Analysis
HIGHER INCOME					
Couple A: Married. Joint mortgage of £30,000. She earns £10,000 p.a. He earns £20,000 p.a. They have opted for separate taxation. No children.	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£800	No change bar child benefit
Couple B: With two children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage
Couple C: Unmarried. Mortgage and earnings as for A. No children.	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage plus approximately £740 from additional personal allowance (for single parents) and child benefit
Couple D: With two children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £370 from additional personal allowance (for single parents) and child benefit
LOWER INCOME					
Couple A: Married. Joint mortgage of £30,000. She earns £7,000 p.a. He earns £10,000 p.a. No children.	£2,795	£2,425	£5,220	£800	No change bar child benefit
Couple B: With two children	£2,795	£2,425	£5,220	£800	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £270 from additional personal allowance (for single parents) and child benefit
Couple C: Unmarried. Mortgage and earnings as for A. No children.	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£800	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £270 from additional personal allowance (for single parents) and child benefit
Couple D: With two children	£2,795	£2,795	£5,590	£800	Gains £200 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £270 from additional personal allowance (for single parents) and child benefit

The fun of the fair

It is child's play to visit the British International Toy and Hobby Fair as a consenting adult. Everyone is as chummy as can be. But come with the actual consumer and they suspect you are up to foul play.

Winnie-the-Pooh, My Pet Monster and Marshall Braveheart were there. So were Captain Power and his arch-enemy Lord Dread. But who were these costumed characters trying to kid? The only alien life forms at the Olympia Toy Fair, which ends today, were children.

I was made to feel as welcome as an intruder from outer space for touring the toy industry's annual British showcase with two well-behaved youngsters in tow —

The toast of toytown may be the despair of gentle parents



Daniel and Meccano man

properly accredited and labelled to serve as photographic models and researchers.

We were haughtily refused admission to some stands, while giant bears and whimsical beasts passed through unobserved. "They probably know their products wouldn't stand up to much fooling around," suggested one exhibitor, confident that his would.

Mind you, it was an adult show — in parts. A cardboard cut-out of Joan Collins greeted visitors at the entrance to the Design Partnership Licensing stand. "We're also a licensing agent for Joan Collins' lingerie," said a voice from among the cuddly toys and plastic trinkets. Perhaps Joan Collins can be classified as a hobby, or maybe a living doll.

There were "adult" board games with names like Orgy, Stock Market, The Stock Exchange and Megalomania, and one called Piremid, which the

children wearing target waistcoats, caps or belts (Matt's Lazer Tag, Buddy L's Phaser Force II). Fearless-looking weapons emit electronic signals which blast cartoon spacecraft to bits on your television screen, thanks to the power of interactive videos (Matt's Captain Power, Ben Dai's Video Challenger).

A new generation of guns (called Buddy L's Sprat-tat-tat and Anker's Splatt Gun) that spray non-toxic paint, which, it is claimed, disappears in seconds from even the whitest shirt. Manufacturers can blind you with specialists' reports that white light isn't dangerous to the eyes, even when directly aimed at them — or dissertations by dry cleaners and doctors on the ephemeral and

'We're also a licensing agent for lingerie'

edible attributes of spray paint.

Garishly coloured "slime" is a feature of many of the new, and revolting, toys. But why does everyone look away shyly when explaining that it doesn't stain the carpet or your children's insides?

The Real Ghostbusters range — supported by a cartoon series currently being shown and about to be boosted in popularity by a *Ghostbusters II* film — was undoubtedly my researchers' favourite. But that could have been partly because we were welcomed into the stand with open arms — and allowed to wallow elbow deep in slime.

The official award for the Toy Fair's Best Toy of the Year went though to Tony's Sylvanian Family — happy, harmless woodland creatures with nothing whatsoever to do with guns or gurgles.

Victoria McKee

FIRST PERSON

Ann Kent

Why not me?

Women's liberation does not yet extend to the womb. We still tend to value ourselves according to our ability to have healthy children. Those who have handicapped or stillborn babies search their memories in an attempt to discover what it was that they could have done wrong.

This sense of injustice cuts both ways. A woman whose pregnancy fails to provide the perfect baby she hoped for, asks, "why not me?" And I, who have drunk alcohol, failed to watch my diet and generally done as I pleased through three successful pregnancies, ask "why not me?"

These fires of self reproach are likely to be banked even higher, following this week's reports of embryological research carried out in Edinburgh. Matthew Kaufman, professor of anatomy at the university's medical school, says he believes alcohol can damage female eggs while they are still being stored in the ovary. He believes the resultant damage could be a principal cause of tens of thousands of miscarriages. He thinks it is one of the reasons for genetic disorders such as Down's syndrome. The only safe policy, he suggests, is for women to avoid alcohol until the childbearing years are over.

A fleet of pantechnicons would be needed to accommodate the load of guilt carried in this suggestion. Yet it has an attractive simplicity. Most of us would like to believe there is a simple way of avoiding the risk of miscarriage or handicapped babies. And most of us can successfully dredge a half-forgotten bludge from the memory banks.

Professor Kaufman is a highly respected academic whose findings are of great

interest in the world of embryology. But his experiments are based on work with the ova of the mouse, not the human. There are good biological reasons for using mice as early models for human experiments. But the results simply pose a question — they do not answer it.

Dr Martin Johnson, reader in Experimental Embryology at Cambridge University, is one of a group of scientists who is currently testing the effects of alcohol on the unfertilized human ovum. And as he says: "There is still absolutely no evidence to show that alcohol intake in women causes chromosomal abnormalities in the foetus."

Miscarriage is a common experience: most of the losses occur before the woman realises that she is pregnant, and of diagnosed pregnancies, about one in five is lost. The links between social drinking by mothers and abnormality remain slight. Much stronger evidence exists to link alcohol consumption with abnormal human sperm. But this fact is little publicized.

Meanwhile, the peddlers in pre-conceptual care continue to grind on about abstinence, hair analysis, zinc tablets and high-fibre diets which turn pregnancy into an endurance test. Kaufman's research will be used — probably without many references to mice — to support their arguments.

Yet there is no evidence that women who miscarry once or twice, or who have a defective baby should regard themselves as anything but unlucky. We don't know the answer to "why me?" and "why not me?" And while we don't know, we shouldn't let ourselves be exploited by the guilt industry.



TOMORROW

Health Page

Good Vibrations: is "sound therapy" making the right noises?

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

For some weeks now, and despite every provocation, I have not unleashed a single whinge, but there is a time when the pom of honour must stand up and be counted. I have accepted that my media should preoccupy themselves with bicentennial shenanigans to the exclusion of all else, that every square millimetre of Australian territory and every tiny moment of her somewhat sparse history should be dinned into my awareness, that every word from every turgid commemorative paean should be monitored, and that all this Whickering and Pilgering should not cease until every last antipodean eccentric and issue and moment and peculiar bloody marsupial had passed before me in review. I did this in the sure and simple faith that these were penalties to be paid so that I could sit up in the middle of the night and watch the Bicentennial Test.

Because if the BBC and the IBA put on all that - sparing no expense - would they not be bound to put on this? After all, to be fair to aboriginal rights and the Princess of Wales's courtier alike, was there any bicentennial issue about which the pom was likelier to give a damn? Fat chance: a nightly half-hour of recorded lowlights was all we were vouchsafed. Awake, anyhow, for the radio commentary, I switched on the box at 2am last Sunday, just to see what priorities had excluded Test coverage. Both BBC channels were blank. ITV was showing *Batman*, and Channel 4, true to form, was offering an ancient length of monochromatic subtitled in which two old Poles carried a wardrobe into the sea.

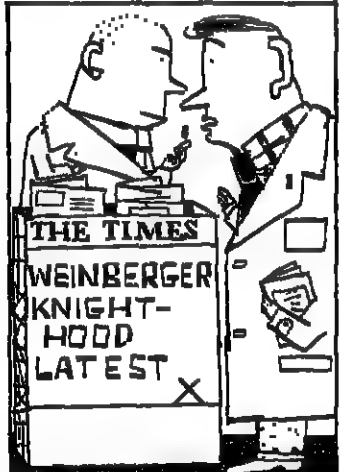
Next day a neighbour telephoned to say that a goldfish was swimming across my lawn. I looked out, in the middle of Monday's cyclone, and saw that he was right. My small pond having overflowed into the choppy lake which the garden had become, a couple of midget carp had taken it on the lam and were now striking out for the Baltic, with which Cricklewold was apparently on the point of being seamlessly connected.

Necessity is the mother of chaos. Although Izaak Walton told us to say on the manner of catching fish in a colander, I grabbed this against the option of a sauceman, partly because holes would make unrolling easier, partly because God alone knew what trauma might afflict a fish suddenly discovering itself walled in with Teflon and clearly bound for the griddle.

What I had not anticipated was that an implement can have either holes or water in it, but not both. Having, after a pleasant enough 10 minutes wading this way and that across the vanished verdure, managed to catch one fugitive, I twigged that to catch the other, the first would have to leap about waterless. As I ran, it somersaulted before me, like an Olney pancake.

Nor would you believe the lack of co-operation its colleague brought to its succour. Fifteen further minutes were to pass before - with the two encolandered fish now engaged in battering one another senseless - I could splash back into the house. Where my son, who had selflessly watched all this from the window, peered into the colander and said: "Those aren't ours." They are in a basin even as I type. Whose are they? Where are ours?

BARRY FANTONI



'I suppose it's in line with Duke Ellington, Count Basie and King Kong.'

I blame the Met Office. Why is this country always caught unprepared? Had Ian McCaskill had the foresight to gum a few monkey minnows to his map the night before, all this could have been avoided.

Still, and fenny risk notwithstanding, off to Cambridge, on the morning morn, ploughing up the M11 waterway in the teeth of a Cheshireman gale, the bonnet shipping green, and storm-disorientated gulls wheeling over my wake in hope of jetsam.

The reason behind the crackpot pilgrimage is, of course, obvious. I am going in search of satirical crockery.

The previous evening, knackered by the day's coarse fishing and my equanimity tant, I had allowed myself to engage in an acrimonious barney with a singularly pompous obstetrician who insisted that the first Siamese twins recorded in Britain were Chang and Eng, born in 1814. Whereas I swore that one pair, at least, had been delivered in the 17th century. Had I not, 20 years before, seen them on a plate?

He asked, scoffing, for proof. Not having the plate about me, I was forced to accede to the consensus that I was not a household name where gynaecologists foregathered, and shut up. Nothing else for it, then. My cheeks still burning from the injustice of it all, I hurried myself a dozen hours later into the Fitzwilliam museum, and yes, still there, two decades on, was the plate: two foxy crooks in wigs, joined between them a pitiful infant brace, holding at the chest and identified as "Prisilla & Aquila" with, around the rim, the legend *Behold too persons that are reasonable to rob the parents and to keep the child*. It was dated 1680.

The catalogue explained that "Captain Henry Walrond and Sir Edward Phillips removed the twins from their Somerset parents and made money from displaying them to the public". I bore you with this personal triumph only because there is no way of proving it to my opponent, other than to publish it. This is because, on inquiry, I discovered that the catalogue I wanted to bear triumphantly to London cost £135. Walrond and Phillips would be proud.

It is a matter for deep concern that the Government appears reluctant to recognize either the sincerity or the strength of the feelings aroused by the provisions of the Education Reform Bill affecting universities.

At the heart of the universities' concern is the fact that the new law sets up mechanisms by which centres of higher education could be controlled, in general and in detail, by government. The universities - and others are joining them - are convinced that this would be contrary to the national interest, in the widest and fullest sense.

What are these mechanisms? Under Section 94, sub-sections 3 and 4 the Secretary of State will have powers to make such conditions as he may determine (there is no limitation) in allocating funds to the new Universities Funding Council, and the UGC must comply with "any directions" which he gives it. The UGC may, in turn, attach any conditions it thinks fit to allocations to individual universities, with powers to require repayment with interest if conditions are not complied with.

The universities believe that they can best do their job of

Richard Southwood explains the universities' fear of new controls

Right to mistrust reform

teaching and research, and thus best serve the nation, if in their academic operations they are free from state control; at the same time they have never claimed exemption from the need to demonstrate good use of public funds. Putting this another way, there is a problem of reconciling independence with accountability.

In the past this problem was resolved by the existence of a strong and independent body interposed between government and the universities - the University Grants Committee. Lord Croham's committee, although it found the UGC in need of substantial reform, saw this clearly enough, but the Bill does not follow Lord Croham's lead. The UGC is indeed to have strong powers over the universities. But instead of being independent it will itself be

vulnerable to direct state control. The change is fundamental.

Ministers seem to have been reluctant to face up to this line of argument. Their first contention - erroneous, but doggedly repeated - was that they had followed the Croham prescription. Subsequently they have accepted that the legislation would make sweeping powers available to the Secretary of State, but have said those powers would not be exercised unreasonably - a personal assurance which obviously can have no permanent validity in competition with an Act of Parliament. And they have latterly contended - at highest ministerial level - that the universities are making a fuss about nothing because the government already has "unlimited powers": it could abolish the grants committee by a stroke of the pen, for

example, or redistribute grant between universities.

It would be unfair to take Mr Kenneth Baker's phrase out of context: he would surely not wish to contend that in reality his department's powers are "unlimited".

Indeed, Mr Robert Jackson, in his recent piece in *The Times*, has directly addressed this point, referring to the way in which the "theoretical" powers have in practice been constrained by "conventions, by public opinion, and by the fact that - unlike their counterparts in some continental countries - the universities are autonomous self-governing corporations".

Mr Jackson's analysis of what has been the position is, as far as it goes, reassuring, but it is not a valid defence of the Bill, which if enacted will govern matters for the future. Mr Jackson went on

to state that the conventions which have "protected" the universities from detailed intervention throughout the period of the UGC will continue to operate in the new era of its successor. He offered no ground for this assertion, and however welcome it may be as an indication of his personal hopes or intentions, the universities will not be reassured.

They will be right not to be reassured. Where powers are undefined, convention based on consensus and fortified by long usage, may impose constraints which are formidably strong. Powers which are defined by statute, on the other hand, may be exercised, within the scope of the definition, freely and with challenge; and if, as in this case, the boundary of his legal power is to be widely drawn, a Secretary of State will enjoy powers greater

than those which "theoretically" (as Mr Jackson concedes) are currently "unlimited". Former custom is not likely to be invoked effectively to prevent actions which expressly, by statute, are perfectly legal. If the present situation, in which undefined powers are constrained by convention, is to be replaced by a "new era" of statutory clarity, then not only the powers, but also the protective constraints to which the Under-Secretary has referred, must be embodied in the legislation.

The Government would earn nothing but respect if it were to heed what is being so anxiously said, and consider most carefully the merits of the amendments which the universities are proposing. In considering those amendments it should have before it this question: "What is it that the Government would wish to retain, which it would lose if the amendments were to be made?" If the government does not accept the amendments to will owe Parliament a clear answer to that question.

Sir Richard Southwood is Acting Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Ruled by the Roundheads

If this be so, thy state of health is poor But thine arithmetic is quite correct

Perhaps those lines of A.E. Housman have come to the minds of some MPs in recent weeks, as the Government's great statistical barrage has crashed down relentlessly against the nurses and the doctors. And then again, perhaps no lines of verse came to the mind at all. I suspect that the total number of lines of verse, of any kind, that has come to the total number of minds in the present House of Commons may be the lowest such total ever in any House of Commons.

The great bourgeois revolution of the late 20th century is resolutely Philistine in character. And the real opposition to it, such as there is, is often below the level of Philistinism, and in the form of cultural nihilism.

When I say "real opposition" I am not referring to the whole of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, many of whom are a lot more loyal than they would care to say. There are a lot of closet Thatcherites around. Indeed, two of these - the leaders of the Liberals and the SDP - came out of the closet the other week, and then had to scamper back in again. Labour's closet Thatcherites are unlikely to risk a sortie.

By the real Opposition, I mean those who genuinely hate Thatcherism, without qualification. Coincidentally these people also hate literature, as a product of a class-society and therefore riddled on every rotten page with elitism, racism, sexism and homophobia. In America thinkers of this description have been able to drive *Huckleberry Finn* from bookshops, libraries, and curricula. I expect *Ohello* to be on someone's hit list pretty soon.

The Thatcherites, for their part, don't actually hate literature. They don't care much about it either way, but the Thatcherite idolatry of freedom of choice works against the encouragement in schools of interest in literature. Most children, if not positively encouraged to read work which requires some effort, will confine them-

selves to the easier stuff. This appears to be happening in schools to an increasing extent. In America things have gone further. Professors of literature are teaching their students that their subject does not exist. There is no difference between Shakespeare and comic books, or if there is, the difference is no more significant than the difference between "a hoagie and a pizza" as the professor of literature in one American major university puts it.

In terms of property and income, the bourgeois revolution is obviously not a leveller; quite the contrary. But in cultural terms, the bourgeois revolution is a leveller, and the levelling goes steadily down. And the fiercest enemies of the bourgeois revolution want the cultural level to go still faster down. But I had better explain what I mean by the bourgeois revolution of the late 20th century.

In Britain, by the last quarter of the century, the challenge to middle class authority, both from above and below, had seriously weakened. The upper classes had been weakened first by the impact of Labour legislation and tax policies after the Second World War, then by Britain's relative decline, especially in comparison with America. I suspect that the latter factor was the more important: America was doing very nicely, without the leadership of a hereditary landed aristocracy. Business leadership seemed to work better. So the upper classes drooped a bit; the middle classes began to perk up; and to lose the inhibitions which had so long afflicted them in the presence of their betters.

The challenge from below, which had looked formidable indeed at the mid-century, crumbled quite steadily thereafter. The working class itself began to break up, with the most competent and aggressive sections defecting to the middle class. The Tory party, now under militant middle-class leadership, appears in secure possession of the richest and most densely populated part of the country: a power base which can dominate the entire island.



Curiously, the political division in modern England, in regional terms, corresponds quite closely to the line of division at the time of the first English Revolution. Then, as now, the line ran between the South and East, on the one hand, and the North and West on the other. The old domain of the

Puritan revolutionaries is now the domain of Mrs Thatcher. The old Royalist areas are now held by Mr Kinnock's socialists. "The dark corners of the land," is how the Puritan revolutionaries used to refer to the North and West. And that is how these regions still appear, in the eyes of those who have inherited

the old Puritan power base: Thatcherism.

I don't think this is a mere curiosity or fortuitous paradox. The South and East, in the 17th century, were the regions dominated by the Puritan work ethic. And the most ardent champion of that ethic, in contemporary Britain, is Margaret Thatcher.

The greatest leader of Puritan England was distinguished, as Mrs Thatcher is, for ruthless efficiency. Mrs Thatcher likes to be compared with Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. But - tedious questions of crowns and genders set aside - I think the Iron Lady is closer in spirit to old Ironsides.

Internationally, too, the bourgeois revolution advances. The current heirs of the two great socialist revolutions in Russia and China are trying to make their revolutions over, along lines as near bourgeois as may be feasible.

The bourgeois revolution works: no doubt about that. But there is often something repellent about how it works, as in recent weeks with regard to the health service. Mrs Thatcher never actually says: "The devil take the hindmost!" But the distance that may separate the hindmost from the devil, at any given moment, is not a significant factor in her calculations about the common good.

Mrs Thatcher likes to talk about the Victorians. The Victorian she most resembles is Dickens's Gradgrind. Gradgrind himself had a certain grandeur about him, as Mrs Thatcher has. But the prize product of Gradgrind's system is the odious Biter: a brainless, functioning brain without any imagination at all, and consequently without capacity for compassion.

Some of Mrs Thatcher's ministers, and especially her junior ministers, have a look of Biter about them.

Possibly the bourgeois revolution, as it consolidates itself, will begin to lose some of its rawness, and some of its Philistinism. In America - where of course the bourgeois revolution is longer established - there are a few signs that something of the kind may be happening, especially in the critical sphere of higher education. Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind* - first blast of the trumpet against the "hoagie or pizza" school - sold five million copies last year. So there are some hungry sheep about who know they are hungry, and not for hoagie, nor yet for pizza.

Commentary • DIGBY ANDERSON

Only discriminate

Miss Bellos gave the lead last year in suggesting Thatcherism might deliver minorities to the gas chambers. Minority enthusiasts have noisily taken up the theme, denouncing England as "a racist, homophobic, narrow-minded, authoritarian rathole". And now "figures in the arts" have complained collectively of an "unprecedented" witch-hunt "over what we think and do".

What they are frothing about is sometimes called, more mildly, homosexual discrimination. But what's obvious from their remarks is that, far from there being too much discrimination, there's not enough.

First, it might be useful to discriminate between the current tight restrictions on homosexual behaviour on the one hand, and Auschwitz on the other. Then they might have discriminated between censorship of the arts and teaching, and restriction of public subsidies.

If schools and libraries are funded by the taxpayer and run by politicians, it is logical and right that the politicians restrict them according to the taxpayers' wishes. It's clumsy, of course. Far better to let the users of schools and libraries have direct sovereignty of them as paying customers, assisted by government vouchers. But the assorted lobbyists would scarcely welcome that.

Next, the protesters could learn to discriminate among homosexuals themselves. Homosexuals do not come pre-packaged in a "gay community" with an "interest" written on the label. They are as different as heterosexuals, socially, politically, morally. If there are, as claimed, up to four million of them, then perhaps 3,999,000

have not joined the demonstrations which purport to represent them. Many, perhaps, voted for Mrs Thatcher: some may support Clause 28 and resent having their private sexual inclinations turned into public municipal politics. Why should a discreet, retiring, elderly, conservative gentleman who has lived for many years with another man be classed with a group of mousetraps, earringed, promiscuous and exhibitionist Trots, let alone have them speak for him?

In fact they threaten him. In the climate which followed the 1967 Act, many heterosexuals were personally tolerant of the individual homosexuals they knew. Minor discrimination there certainly was, for heterosexuals were not prepared to extend tolerance to equality, let alone to public affirmations of homosexuality. The *Weekend World* Harris Centre poll showed only half those tolerant of legal homosexuality also tolerant of public displays of homosexual affection, and only a fifth the teaching of homosexuality as one of a pair with the family.

The man and woman in the street can discriminate between rival claims. Society depends on the institution of the family for the care of both children and the elderly and the maintenance of values. It cannot let that institution be relativized away as one of a number of optional lifestyles. At the same time, it has to recognize that the homosexual minority will not go away, and come to terms with it.

They can also discriminate between tolerating individual homosexuals and surrendering their own value system. Unlike so many "experts" they are attached to the notions of

normality and abnormality. Such mild opposition as the survey's respondents had to homosexuality were to do with Aids and with unnaturalness. They can discriminate between normal sexual relations and sodomy, both heterosexual and homosexual sodomy. The obligation not to bound those who indulge in abnormal practices does not extend to calling those practices normal.

This fine balance in public attitudes, this discriminating reaction to homosexuality, is now in danger of breaking down because of the activities and extreme claims of the political activists. Basic tolerance, as indicated by approval of adult homosexuality being legal, in private, is down from 66 per cent in 1979 to 48 per cent, under half. In these circumstances, something like Clause 28 is inevitable. But the blame lies squarely with political extremists, most within the Labour Party, who have exploited homosexuals for their own ends.

It is a great shame, because Clause 28, in any form, is not the right way to regulate homosexuality. It just like the municipal funding of homosexual promotion, is political intervention. Political intervention cannot discriminate between different sorts of homosexuals and practices: there will be anomalies. Political regulation cannot treat cases on their merits. It cannot negotiate. It cannot permit the "double standards" and "contradictions" so essential in the web of competing claims and rights. Society could, and did before the activists tried to improve on it.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

SCIENCE REPORT

Who's for drinks?

A simple blood test may some day be able to help mitigate the devastating personal and social consequences of alcoholism by identifying who will remain a social drinker and who is at risk of developing a serious addiction.

When several studies in recent years indicated that certain people may have a genetic predisposition to alcoholism, a search started for easily detectable evidence of who was at risk. Genes make enzymes, and measuring their characteristics can give clues to a person's genetic makeup.

But researchers had to decide which of the thousands of enzymes necessary to life might be different in alcoholics. A clue came from alcoholics who committed suicide. Post mortem analysis showed that one enzyme, monoamine oxidase, was markedly abnormal, making it a likely candidate as a biological marker for alcohol dependence.

A research team led by Dr Boris Tabakoff at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, in Bethesda, Maryland, studied the behaviour of monoamine oxidase found in a component of blood called platelets. Writing in the January 21 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, they said that alcohol had a more profound effect on the monoamine oxidase in the blood of alcoholics than in healthy volunteers.

Tabakoff's team tested the blood from 95 alcoholics and compared it with a group of 33



Richard Leadbetter

healthy volunteers. Measuring how the monoamine oxidase behaved in a test tube showed no differences. But when a small quantity of alcohol was added, the alcoholic's monoamine oxidase activity dropped dramatically.

Animal studies pointed Tabakoff's team to another enzyme, *aldehyde dehydrogenase*. Here too, the enzyme appeared superficially the same in the two groups. But when their blood was stimulated in the laboratory, the researchers were able to detect significant changes in the enzyme.

It was also found that even after four years on the wagon, the enzymes of alcoholics still showed the effects of alcohol. This might be a lingering response to advanced alcoholism, but may also be an inherent characteristic of people predisposed to alcoholism. It could be that the changes in

enzyme behaviour brought on by alcohol might be a cause, not a symptom of alcohol dependence.

Tabakoff and his colleagues subjected the results of their survey to advanced statistical analysis, and found that their enzyme measurements could diagnose alcoholism correctly in three out of four cases. This accuracy level, much higher than previous studies, implies that natural, individual variation in the sensitivity of these two enzymes to alcohol may be close to the heart of the matter.

Critics might claim that this study succeeds because it is retrospective, looking at people who are already alcoholics. Tabakoff and his team admit that inheritance is only one explanation for their results; the differences they observe need not be inherited, but symptoms of alcoholism in people with formerly quite normal enzymes.

It is virtually certain that a better understanding of alcoholism will show that more enzymes - and thus more genes - are involved than those affecting monoamine oxidase and aldehyde dehydrogenase. Genetic determinants of personality, motivation and learning are also bound to be involved.

But alcoholism is easiest to treat when discovered early. If these two enzymes can be used to identify problem drinkers, prevention can begin even before a potential alcoholic takes that first drink.

HENRY GEE

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SPRIT OF '66

The National Union of Seamen still looks back with pride to its crippling national strike in 1966, when Harold Wilson's phrase about "this tightly-knit group of politically-motivated men" entered the dictionary of political quotations. In its current national ferrymen's strike it seems determined to caricature that famous episode.

This week's action at the ports is certainly frustrating to would-be ferry passengers. All the more entitled are they, then, to extract from it such amusement as they can in compensation. They might even wish that the present leadership of the NUS was a little more tightly knit and motivated by a few more fragments of political sense. Whatever the union's grievance, it is hard to take seriously what is prosecuted so ineptly.

Without so much as a blink in direction of the 1984 Trades Union Act, the NUS called out its members on diverse ferry services all over the country, in protest at the cuts in staff and service deemed necessary by the owners of the Isle of Man service. It is a strike without a strategy, political or otherwise, or indeed any sort of logic at all, for most of the employers against whom NUS members have been called on to strike are quite separate from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. So these other companies cannot deliver what their striking employees say they want. That makes aiming industrial action at them pointless, as well as secondary and unlawful.

Moreover, it was unlawful anyway. No ballot has been conducted among the membership affected. Perhaps the union's leadership has been on a slow boat to China and back these last few years, for its behaviour is as if the 1979 election never happened and as if the trade union movement's initial repugnance at pre-strike balloting in the 1984 Act had never been transformed by the passage of time and pressure of opinion into general approval.

The climate has also changed in a much more significant way, as a direct comparison between the 1966 and the 1988 disputes reveals. The action now is, in effect, in protest at the damaging effect on the employment of British seamen of increased competition and the influence of market forces. The industry is especially susceptible to these factors. British shipping lines are in fierce competition with each other and with foreign lines for trade; British seamen are in competition with foreign seamen for employment.

The protest in 1966 was almost the exact opposite. The shipping lines were prepared to pay what the seamen wanted; and only the Labour Government's prices and incomes policy stood in the way. What Mr Wilson was complaining so bitterly about in 1966 was the intention of communists in the NUS to break his precious policy, in the name of free collective bargaining. In one sense, therefore, the old strike was in defence of market forces. This one is in defiance of those same forces.

The NUS has, inevitably, been taken to court by the other shipping lines. No less inevitably, it has been enjoined to withdraw its strike instruction. Its General Secretary, Mr Sam McCuskie, has talked wildly about not fearing the sequestration of the union's assets because it hardly has any left. His executive intends to convene on Friday, with no apparent sense of urgency, to address itself to this problem as if it had only just thought of it.

These legal skirmishes, meanwhile, can have no effect whatever on the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's intentions. They will continue to recruit alternative crews to replace their own striking seamen, with a view to resuming normal services as soon as possible. If the NUS invites its assets to be sequestered, that is hardly going to dissuade them. Yet that is likely to be the only tangible effect of the union's campaign.

INS AND OUTS OF THE NHS

The debate on the health service has focused attention once again on the question of what a given sum of public spending really means. When we talk of spending on health do we mean the actual cash, or do we mean the cash adjusted for some general measure of inflation?

Alternatively, do we mean cash adjusted for some particular measure of inflation relevant to the service in question — a measure, for instance, which would take account of the rise in doctors' and nurses' rates of pay and would, therefore, give a better indication of the change in the resources available to the service?

These questions are likely to surface again today when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Major, gives evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service. One of the complaints launched at the Government has been that, while it has, indeed, provided more money for the NHS, taking into account the rate at which health costs rise, the increase in the volume of resources is either small or even negative. Rapidly advancing medical technology and sharp increases in the cost of equipment put further strains on a budget on which demands are always rising.

The argument is perfectly sound. Different measures of spending are appropriate for different purposes and cost increases in any particular programme are obviously relevant to the effective value of the resources going into it. But it is completely wrong to go on from there to conclude that spending decisions should be determined partly by the rate at which the Government's costs increase.

One of the last Labour Government's achievements, made at considerable political cost, was to abandon this very system of planning public spending in volume terms and substitute the much more effective discipline of cash limits. Once the Government plans for a particular "volume" of spending on a service cost control becomes a side issue. In meeting the Government's spending targets cost increases are an incidental which simply has to be met. Public spending starts to rise faster

than growth in the economy. Taxation and borrowing rise and inflation results.

The absurdity of this approach is most glaring in relation to defence spending. Few people would argue that we should accept that £1 billion wasted on Nimrod is simply due to the way in which defence costs inexorably rise faster than costs in other parts of the economy. Yet that is what the advocates of planning in volume terms are inviting us to do. Cost control in the health service may not confront quite such spectacular challenges, but the challenges are certainly there.

The message of spending adjusted for differential increases in costs is ambiguous even where costs are determined in a competitive market and public-sector management is as rigorous as in the private sector. A new generation of tank may cost many times what its predecessor cost, but it may also be many times more effective. Similarly, pay increases for nurses which improve recruitment, encourage the development of scarce skills and increase staff contentment are clearly contributing to a more effective health service.

It would be the height of folly for the Government now to abandon cash planning of public spending for a return to the will-o'-the-wisp of "resources" for spending. Spending should continue to be determined overall by what the economy can afford, bearing in mind the desirability of reducing the tax burden, and priorities within that arrived at according to the political pressures of the day.

Those pressures may well indicate an increase in spending on health when the new public expenditure survey begins, but that assessment should be influenced more by the effectiveness of the service than by reference to spending figures. The public ultimately is not interested in inputs to the health service, however sophisticated the measure, but in outputs from it. The Treasury Committee in the past has had considerable success in probing what the Government is buying rather than what it is spending and that is where the debate should now be focused.

BORIS AND NIKOLAI

On Monday *Le Monde* published a document purporting to be the hitherto unpublished speech by Mr Boris Yeltsin at the Autumn Plenum of the Soviet Communist Party — the speech which brought his downfall. Experts will argue about whether the document is genuine, but its authenticity is less important than its appearance at this particular time. Genuine or not, it signifies that the conflict which led to Mr Yeltsin's removal as head of the Moscow City Communist Party nearly three months ago is still unresolved.

Supporters and opponents of Mr Yeltsin would have an equal interest in making a version of his speech public. Those who agreed with him were doubtless disappointed that, for all the talk of *glasnost*, his attack on the privileges enjoyed by the party élite was suppressed. Those of the opposite persuasion could hope to frighten the beneficiary of the present system into a stouter defence of their position. The personal criticism of Mrs Raisa Gorbachov and the Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, whether included in the original speech or added to discredit the author, can also be read both ways.

Beneath the shifting surface, however, the battle is about policies. Mr Yeltsin's dismissal, the shelving of legislation on press freedom and the postponement of a planned central committee meeting on education reform have offered isolated hints of the turmoil within the Soviet Communist Party. Nothing indicates the scale of this more graphically than the recently re-joined debate about Lenin's ideologist, Nikolai Bukharin.

The figure of Bukharin, who was purged by Stalin at the last great show trial in 1938, has become a twofold symbol. For the Soviet intelligentsia, Bukharin represents a test of how the Communist Party deals with well-intentioned intellectual critics. The call for him

to be rehabilitated, raised first after Stalin's death and recently repeated by his widow, is an appeal to the party to be merciful to those who dissent from current party orthodoxy but who have none the less rendered it great service. It also contains, for many, an appeal for the rehabilitation of other old revolutionaries and for an honest account of Soviet history.

But Bukharin is also a point of reference for those communists, not only in the Soviet Union, who favour a full condemnation of Stalin and a relaxation of the orthodoxies — political and economic — he enforced. Bukharin is seen as an opponent of excess, who offered a real (and preferable) alternative to Stalinism. He supported Lenin's New Economic Policy, which allowed a limited restoration of private enterprise in the early 1920s; he favoured a system of agriculture which combined private farming and co-operatives, arguing that prosperous peasants made for prosperous towns.

He opposed accelerated and over-centralized industrialization. He spoke of the need for a proper legal framework to protect individuals against the power of the party and the state. He also supported the emergence of informal cultural and social groups, like those which have sprung up in the Soviet Union in the past year, on the ground that they operated as a check, one of very few, on bureaucracy.

Many of these policies came close to those advocated by Mr Gorbachov, and until an official formula has been devised to explain why Bukharin was wrong and Gorbachov is right, the rehabilitation of Bukharin is dangerous and will arouse opposition. It would amount to an admission that for 60 years the Soviet Union has been following an incorrect course. It would threaten the Stalinist foundations on which so much of the present Soviet system still rests.

Why the UGC needs a new role

From Lord Annan
Sir, Sir Mark Richmond (January 26) Lord Russell (January 30) and others ask why the functions of the University Grants Committee needed to be redefined in the Education Reform Bill. The short answer is that, when a convention becomes a fiction, it is better to tell the truth.

After the Robbins report some of us said publicly that the UGC was bound to change its character and become the arm of government; and the role of representing the needs, hopes and discontents of the universities would pass to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors.

Sure enough, as Treasury control began to be exercised, the UGC reluctantly operated a system of norms and other administrative devices that diminished university autonomy, and after the oil crisis and the collapse of the quinquennial system the UGC spent more time advising universities than on advising the Government.

Even before the cuts of 1982 the chairman of the UGC made it clear to me, when I was Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, that the UGC could no longer contemplate financing so many small multi-faculty institutions in London when their unit costs were so much higher than those in other civic universities. He also indicated that London must make more progress in rationalising its medical schools.

In 1982, Sir Edward Parker took the courageous decision not to cut across the board but to give some universities and some subjects, such as engineering, a better deal than others.

Universities are right to be sensitive to any threat to academic freedom, but they often protest too much. In 1967, when Tony Crosland introduced a small differential between overseas and home students' fees, academic freedom was said to be in danger, and time and again when governments make proposals for change the cry is raised. But I, too, have

apprehensions, and I hope Sir Mark Richmond shares them. They are these.

It was right 25 years ago to expand higher education. It was wrong to think it could all be Rolls-Royce education. It was wrong to insist on parity of esteem between universities and polytechnics. No country could afford to run all its institutions with staff-student ratios of 1:10 or lower, or to have all staff on comparable rates of pay, or to support all students at the same rate to enable them to go anywhere, near or far, for a first degree. It was wrong to ensure the three-year first degree as the only respectable qualification.

The expansion has got wrecked on parity of esteem. In America there are fine universities that have no graduate students; there are places where the staff do good research but teach on a different level from Chicago or Berkeley. No one thinks Rutgers, in New Jersey, should argue Princeton. Unless the Government decides to privatise higher education, only central bodies such as the UGC (Universities Funding Council) can initiate change.

If there is no change three things will follow. Not enough 18-year-olds will learn skills the country needs and open their minds. Not enough will be done — there is far too little — to retain those who work in professions or industry. Not enough funds will be available to maintain Britain's record in scientific research.

Lord Russell belongs, as I did, to an élite institution. If he wants it, as I am sure he does, to remain a centre of excellence, some way must be found to give a dozen or so — a Baker's dozen — institutions and units preferential funding to enable them to continue to rank as among the best in the world of scholarship. A UFC could do it. Yours faithfully, NOEL ANNAN, House of Lords, February 1.

Abolition of ILEA

From Mr Nigel Waterson

Sir, I am writing to you at a time when it seems that an announcement by the Government that the ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) is to be abolished altogether is imminent. As a governor of an inner-London school and a Conservative supporter, I have been troubled for some time that the present proposals are not wholly satisfactory.

On the face of it, the idea of opting out does place more choice in the hands of local authorities. However, we have a situation where certain boroughs, such as Kensington and Chelsea, have indicated an intention to opt out,

whereas my own Labour-controlled borough takes the opposite view. What this could mean in practice is that Hammersmith and Fulham would remain as a small "island" of ILEA surrounded by boroughs which have opted out.

I hope that in time even some members of the Labour Party in London will see the benefits of a clean break with the past. Instead of continuing uncertainty about which boroughs would opt out, all boroughs would then be able to lay their plans in good time. This must be to the benefit of children, parents and teachers alike.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL WATSON, 2 Marco Road, W6, January 29.

Check-up charges

From the Secretary of the General Dental Practitioners' Association

Sir, Members of the General Dental Practitioners' Association will have been interested to read your article (January 21) on the abolition of free dental check-ups for patients, as proposed in the Health and Medicines Bill currently going through committee in the House of Commons. In a recent poll of our members we found that 98 per cent of dentists were opposed to this radical change.

For many years dentists have complained that there is no room in the dental fee scale for prevention. The essence of dental prevention is frequent monitoring and removal of patients. Ministers' responses to criticism on this point have always pointed to the dental examination as the

main preventive item in the fee scale. By putting a charge on the check-up they go against the grain of their preventive philosophy.

The new proportional charges, coupled with the charge on check-ups, mean that almost all courses of NHS dental treatment will be more expensive, some considerably so. We have calculated that a single filling may cost as much as £49.80, an increase of 41.5 per cent. Against this background of NHS charges the cost of the private scheme, Denplan, at £6 a month appears modest rather than "not inconsiderable".

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WATSON, Honorary Secretary, General Dental Practitioners' Association, 152 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, January 25.

Future of the NHS

From Dr Edward J. Horgan

Sir, The Government's greatest ally in controlling demand for expensive specialist care is the family doctor. It is he who can best assess the necessity for appropriate referral in the light of his medical opinion and personal knowledge of the patient.

The balance between consumer and supplier in our health service is in the hands of the only person

who can possibly assess the reasonableness of the demand — the family doctor. This places a heavy responsibility upon that doctor and he or she needs to be given support and encouragement to take on this responsibility and make these decisions.

In exchange for this trust the profession must allow medical audit. Comparisons of performance and workload to expose the idle and counsel the incompetent doctor is the price that must be paid by the profession if it is to continue to receive the confidence of the British patient and the further development of the world's fairest health service. Yours faithfully, E. J. HORGAN, The Surgery, Victoria Road, Mortimer, Berkshire.

Abortion reform

From Dr R. H. Lindenbaum

Sir, If made law in its present form the Abortion Bill will affect not just those families with previously-born handicapped children, or other known genetic problems — it will influence the medical care of almost every pregnant woman in this country.

Foetal abnormality is not a rarity; it is a fact of life and death, that cannot be legislated away and it is more resistant to attempted legislation than the resistant social fact of abortion.

Despite the pronouncements of some professionals and academics, not all foetal abnormalities and genetic disorders will or can be diagnosed by the 17 weeks and no days limit written into the Bill. Amongst women seen by me even pregnant members of Life have changed their views when personally confronted with this sort of problem.

Yours faithfully, R. H. LINDENBAUM, Department of Medical Genetics, Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

From Mrs Jane M. Reynolds
Sir, Re Simon Inglis's letter of January 22 [on irritating sounds] — the continuous "buzz" from the electric cooker summoning one to attend to a culinary masterpiece, which you know will survive unharmed for at least another five minutes while you read the final paragraph in an article in *The Times*. Yours faithfully, JANE REYNOLDS, Sandal, 68 Firs Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Case for uniform business rate

From the Director General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, In his article of January 28 ("Fairer rates for business") John Banham, Director General of the CBI, does business a service by rightly focusing attention on the uniform business rate (UBR) proposals within the Local Government Finance Bill.

The principle of a UBR may be one to which the CBI are opposed, but it has been consistently supported by this association as the national voice for chambers of commerce. There is a better case for the continuation of rates on businesses than individuals' businesses, predominantly use local authority property-based services and all businesses pay rates.

The value of a UBR is that it at long last removes business rates from the hands of local authorities, too many of whom have abused them as a source of revenue for too long. It is, however, rough justice, particularly on those who have previously voted with their feet and moved to low-rated areas.

On balance, it is better to take the benefit of a national business rate, even though its introduction in tandem with revaluation, after a lapse of 17 years, presents many businesses with very sharp potential changes in their rates bill — something for which we have long criticised local authorities.

The essential and immediate question, whatever one's position on the principle of the UBR, is to determine more precisely in what terms the Government propose to phase in the UBR after 1990 and

in what way the national rate poundage is to be changed annually after its introduction. There are some major steps which Government can take to mitigate the adverse impact.

These include setting a 10 per cent limit in real terms on the annual increase in the rate bill, with the cost met from the Exchequer. This retains the benefit to those who have lost out over the years by high rates and lack of revaluation, while safeguarding the position of those most seriously at risk.

Secondly, the national rate poundage under UBR should be on an "RPI-minus" formula. This would allow the expansion of the tax base and cost improvements in local government services to be reflected in a real-terms rate bill for business reducing from its present too-high level, leaving more room, as John Banham rightly says, for business to invest for the future. We have put these points to ministers.

Yours faithfully, R. G. TAYLOR, Director General, The Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Sovereign House, 212a Shaftesbury Avenue, WC1, January 29.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 3 1872

A claimant to the baronetcy, who declared himself to be Roger Tichborne, presumed lost at sea years before, fought the longest trial of the century. Summing-up for the family, Sir John Coleridge, the Attorney-General, who spoke for 36 days, successfully undermined the claimant's credibility by questioning him about Tichborne's schooldays.

THE TICHBORNE CASE.

The examination continues—

"What is handy? — the name is very familiar to me, but I cannot tell what it is. Would it surprise you to find that it was the popular game at Stonyhurst — a game with ball, in which Roger Charles Tichborne was a great proficient? — Nothing of the kind. I was not a proficient in it."

Now, handy is a bastard kind of hockey, and Roger Tichborne was very fond of it, dressing his friends out in coloured caps and jerseys in a rather fantastic way. It is absurd to suppose that he would have forgotten it. Anybody who had been at Stonyhurst for a month would remember it, much more Roger Tichborne, who took the greatest interest in the game and was perpetually playing it. ... One more reminiscence of Stonyhurst. Roger Tichborne was an inveterate smoker and could not be put off his cigars and pipes on any consideration. At Stonyhurst, as at other places, the masters were quite opposed to smoking and the students were never supposed to smoke; but everybody who liked smoking smoked all the same. ... So at Stonyhurst smoking was quite contrary to rules, but as long as the boys did not smoke in the quadrangle, smoking was winked at. The boys went behind the yew hedges to smoke, and everybody knew of the practice, as indeed their noses must have told them. At last a severe edict went forth against smoking, and one of the yew hedges was cut down to a height of three feet, so that if you smoked behind it your head was seen. Thereupon, Roger Tichborne, who seems to have been an adventurous youth and fore-shadowed at this time his South American travels, went into a wood where there was an old hut and used to smoke up a sort of chimney there; but the relentless master found him out, and the cabin was pulled down. The real Roger Tichborne could not have forgotten these incidents, but the plaintiff could tell us nothing about the cabin, about getting into the flue to smoke, or anything else which a boy who had been rather hunted by the masters for his smoking would be sure to remember. The cross-examination was founded on these doings of Roger Tichborne. I will not trouble you with the theatricals. ... but you will remember that I produced an old play-bill showing that Roger took part in the *Castle of Andalusia*, an old English opera, with a great deal of pretty music in it, and pretty songs written by Shields. Well, I asked him the meaning of the letters "A. M. D. G.", and he could not explain them. I told him they stood for "Ad maiorem gloriam Dei." You know that he understood Castilian, and as both Italian and Spanish are derived from Latin, a very limited acquaintance with the latter would teach him that *Dei gloriam* meant the glory of God. So, he told us this much; but he was wholly at a stand about *Ad maiorem*. I do not want to make a joke, but as he says, he has been in the army, I almost wonder that he did not say *ad maiorem* had something to do with a major. (Laughter.) However, the words *ad maiorem* were altogether beyond him. I next tried him with *Laus Deo semper*. Here, again, his knowledge of Spanish would help him to the last two words; but not understanding *laus* he said the words meant, "The laws of God for ever, or permanently." (Laughter.) ...

Hearing of appeals

From Mr Malcolm Cotterill

Sir, Mr Ludovic Kennedy (January 21) asserts that the only way of preventing the fabrication or the suspicion of fabrication of false evidence by the police is the appointment of examining magistrates. I suggest there is an infinitely cheaper and better alternative.

All that is necessary is the presence of a magistrate or other person approved and fairly paid by the Lord Chancellor during the conduct of the police questioning. Being drawn from a panel of such people, he would be available at any time — an important matter, since the police will not want to allow a suspect time to prepare his story.

He could prevent, or at least record, any unfairness or oppression. He could similarly record any apparent confusion or lack of understanding in the accused which might affect the significance to be given to his replies.

The suspect's inability or refusal to answer any proper question properly put with such proper safeguards could then, as Mr Kennedy suggests, be a proper matter for comment by either the prosecution or the judge at his trial.

Yours sincerely, MALCOLM COTTERILL, Guildhall Chambers, Broad Street, Bristol, Avon, January 25.

In vino veritas

From Professor Ian Fellis

Sir, Bernard Levin (*The Times*, January 28) predicts that by 1991, wine will be labelled with a health warning. Some four years ago I was in Delhi where I foolishly in retrospect, ordered a bottle of Indian red wine. It came complete with warning label reminding me that alcohol can damage my health. A better warning would have been that that particular Indian red wine would damage my health!

Yours faithfully, IAN FELLIS, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, Merz Court, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, January 29.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 2: The Princess Royal this morning opened the Fourth Quinquennial Veterinary Conference given by the Horserace Betting Levy Board at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Concert given by the Massed Bands of the Guards Division at the Royal Festival Hall.

Lady Elizabeth Basset, Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt, and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

Lady Elizabeth Basset has succeeded Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 2: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, James Ogilvy, to be married to Julia Rawlinson, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Rawlinson.

This evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the Annual Festival Dinner of the News-vendors' Benevolent Institution (Old Ben) at Grosvenor House, London W1.

Mrs Peter Afa was in attendance.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Netherlands from July 4 to 6 to take part in celebrations in connection with the tercentenary of the accession to the British throne of King William III.

Marriage

Mr P.R. Elton and Miss E.L. Hamlin
The marriage took place at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ringwood, Hampshire, on January 9, 1988, between Mr P.R. Elton and Miss E.L. Hamlin.

The bride was attended by Miss A.J. Appleton, Miss E.S. Elton, Miss R.L. Appleton and Miss K. Jennings. Mr Patrick O'Reilly was best man.

The honeymoon was spent in Rome and Florence.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, will open the new central office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation at Millman Street, WC1, at 3.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend the opening of the new Oxford House at 21 Knightsbridge at 5.45.

Memorial service

Mr G. Whiting
A memorial service for Mr Geoffrey Whiting was held yesterday in Canterbury Cathedral. The Rev Peter Johnson officiated and gave an address. Mr David Leach and Canon Anthony Phillips, Headmaster of The King's School, Canterbury, read the lessons. Mr David Whiting, son, read a poem by R.S. Thomas. The Rev Colin Levey said the prayer and the blessing was pronounced by Canon Peter Brett, Vice-Dean.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Commodore J. M. T. Hillier, RN, to be President of the Ordnance Board in the rank of Rear Admiral in March, in succession to Major-General E.G. Wilmut.

Captain A. P. Woodhead, RN, to be Flag Officer Flotilla Two, in succession to Rear Admiral G. F. Lardet, March in the rank of Rear Admiral.

Luncheon
Society for Individual Freedom Sir Richard Body, MP, Chairman of the Society for Individual Freedom, entertained members of the society at luncheon at the House of the Commons yesterday.

Monson and Mr William Cash, MP, were among those present.

Dinners
Founders' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was entertained at the Founders' Company annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Mr A.F. Mitchener, Master, presided.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Bernard Silverman, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Lord Kilmarshack also spoke.

Sun and celebrations down-under cause run on emigration forms

By Howard Foster

Teeming February rain brought out a sense of perverse satisfaction among the would-be emigrants who filled and, at times, overflowed from, Australia House in the Strand this week.

Many of the queue of 70 or more keen to find a new life in Australia after watching television coverage of that country's bicentenary and the Prince and Princess of Wales's tour, said that the British climate was significant factor in their desire to leave.

For a month now, the queues have been snaking round the migration office in London and out through the double doors and along the Strand.

In January, there were 24,000 telephone inquiries about visits to Australia, the highest on record. The figure for last December was 4,400.

The publicity over the 200th anniversary celebrations, officials at Australia House never tire of reminding you, goes on until the end of 1988.

"It's incredible. We have a really high profile now and it is all the sunshine and the lifestyle that is seen on television that gives people the final push to apply to come to us," said Mr Joe Rodigari, who runs the London migration office.

"You can make the total inquiries in January as 34,000, including personal visits to our offices, and 60 per cent of those want to emigrate."

In the past few days the queue to pick up and return immigration forms included carpenters, diesel fitters, an hotel commissionaire, and a man who employs 14 people in a thriving hairdressing salon who had nearly £500,000 in assets.

"Australia looks so nice," said Mr Stephen Sellick, a roof tiler from Braintree in Essex, who was queuing this week with his wife, Michelle, and 15 months old son, Ryan.

"We have been thinking of emigrating for a couple of months and when you see the fine weather on television, you realise what you are missing. Melbourne seems a much better bet than Braintree," Mr and Mrs Sellick are both aged 24.

Mr Eamon Ryan, 48, is the commissionaire at the Forum Hotel, west London. His wife is a midwife and he has two small children.

He said that the weather in Britain was far less important a factor in his decision to emigrate than the prospects

over there and the fact that he had read a recent article by Henry Kissinger which appeared to point out that Australia was gaining stature in the world.

Mr Pat Daniels and Mr Richard Newton had travelled from Bournemouth for their application forms. Both carpenters, they stood in the rain and complained about the difficulty of working in a British winter.

"We are fed up with the weather, setting the beaches and the sun as you do on television is the last straw," said Mr Daniels.

"Some people say Bournemouth is nice in the summer but they don't see it in the winter. We both thought the Australians would be more geared up to deal with those who want to emigrate."

Mr Rodigari added: "There are going to be a lot of disappointed people. Only one in ten applicants was accepted last year and we are allowing only 120,000 people worldwide into the country this year."

Occupations currently in demand in Australia include accountants, carpenters, chefs, hairdressers, stone-masons and journalists.



Ruskini Spear's dramatic portrait of Sir Ralph Richardson as Falstaff and the scene as Sir Peter Hall, Director of the National Theatre, and Lady Richardson formally open the Richardson Room at the National Theatre yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

University news

Oxford
The Hebdomadal Council has put forward proposals for the following honorary degrees to be conferred at the university's annual celebration of Encenia on June 22. These awards are subject to the approval of Congregation on February 9.

D Litt: Dr Yuri Davidovich Levin, doctor of philology and distinguished senior research scholar, Institute of Russian Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad.

DSc: Professor John Bernard Gurdon, FRS, John Humphrey Plummer professor of cell biology, Cambridge and hon. student, Christ Church.

DSc: Professor Donald Ervin Knuth, professor of computer science, Stanford University, US.

DMus: Bernard Haitink, hon. Opera House since 1987, music director, Glyndebourne 1978-88 and Conductor in Chief, Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, 1964-88.

DMus: Dr Paul Sacher, conductor, musical scholar, patron of composers and founder of the leading institution in the world for the study of contemporary music.

Council was also intending to propose the conferment of the degree of doctor of letters, hon. causa, upon the late Ralph Alexander Leigh, emeritus professor of French and sometime Sanders reader in bibliography, University of Cambridge, and member of the Voltaire Foundation Fund Committee and the Voltaire Foundation Directors.

It was thought particularly appropriate to accord this honour in recognition of Professor Leigh's monumental contribution to scholarship in the production of 45 volumes of the *Correspondence Complete* of J-J Rousseau. Professor Leigh had agreed to the submission of his name to Congregation, but he died on December 22, 1987.

Appointments
Director of the Oxford Glycobiology Unit: R A Dwek, MA, DPhil, DSc (BSc, MSc, Manchester), Fellow of Exeter College, From January 1 1988.

University Lectures
Oriental Studies: A Black, MS, DPhil, Fellow-elect of Wolfson College, In Akkadian, From 1 February 1988: C J Kerlake.

DPhil (BA Cambridge), Fellow-elect of St Antony's College, In Turkish, From 1 August 1988. Physical Sciences: S R Turnbull (BA, PhD, Newcastle upon Tyne), Fellow of St Peter's College, In Engineering Science, From 1 January 1988.

Appointments by the Board of the Faculty of Clinical Medicine
Clinical Reader: C H Ferguson (MB, BS London), Fellow-elect of Green College, In Orthopaedic Surgery, From 1 September 1987: R M Gwynne, DM, Fellow of St Peter's College, From 1 January 1988.

Clinical Lecturers: D W Cranston, DPhil, Wolfson, (MB, ChB Bristol), In Surgery, From 1 September 1987: A P Frazer (MB, BS Newcastle), In Bacteriology, From 1 November 1987: P J Ratcliffe (MD Cambridge), In Clinical Medicine, From 1 November 1987: R M Smith (MB, BCh Leeds), In

St Antony's College
St Antony's College, former warden of the college, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of the university, have been made honorary fellows.

Bradford
The Dr Thomas Chilton and Dr Andrew Day mechanical engineering a co-operative venture of £75,000 from the Science and Engineering Research Council and the University of Bradford. The project is to develop a new design and manufacturing process for the production of a new type of engine component. The project is led by Dr Robert Smith and Dr John Smith, who are both members of the Bradford Engineering Research Council. The project is funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the University of Bradford.

Mr Bernard Haitink
Orthopaedic Surgery, From 1 November 1987: M Selinger (BMed Sc, BM, SS Nottingham), In Obstetrics and Gynaecology, From 1 December 1987.

Dr Stephanie Dalley (MA Cambridge), PhD London, has been appointed Shillito Fellow in Assyriology for five years from 1 January 1988.

Election
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
The governing body has made the following election to a non-stipendiary senior research fellowship in modern languages: Ricardo Hernandez, PhD (State University of New York).

Promotion
WOLTON COLLEGE
A N DAVIS, Esq., formerly of Wolton, has been promoted to a senior position.

Polytechnic news
Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, is believed to be the first polytechnic in Britain to set up a chair in accounting funded by a firm of chartered accountants.

Just appointed to the post is Professor Richard Wilson, formerly with Sheffield University's School of Management. The money has been put up by Parnell Kory Foster, an international accountancy practice.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.S.K. Bell and Miss R.F. Roach
The engagement is announced between Robert Stewart Kenyon, only son of Major and Mrs G. Bell, of Pen Aber, Criccieth, North Wales, and Rebecca Frances, elder daughter of Mr T.J.F. Roach, of the Old Bakery, Skirmett, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs P.K. Roach, of T. Guy, Tremadoc, North Wales.

Mr C.M. Brand and Miss L.R. Lenzburg
The engagement is announced between Clive, only son of Mr Gordon John Holmes Brand and of Mrs Betty Ada Chew, of Bedford, and Lesley, only daughter of Mr Frederick Ferchee, of south-east London, and Mrs Regina Anne Lenzburg, of Latham, Lancashire.

Mr P.G. Darby and Miss G.T. Lawrence
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs J. Darby, of Kingsdown, Kent, and Gill, eldest daughter of Mr Colin Lawrence, of Dorking, Surrey, and Mrs Janet Lawrence, of Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire.

Mr J.W. Gibbs and Miss C.C. Randall
The engagement is announced between Jack, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bobby Gibbs, of Oakley, Wiltshire, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Randall, of Monks Eligh, Suffolk.

Mr M.L.W. Hopkins and Miss R.M.W. Wootton
The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of Mr and Mrs M.A. Hopkins, of Coventry, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H.J. Wootton, of Cambridge.

Mr L. Kay and Miss D.M. Bain
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr and Mrs Donald Kay, of Billings, Kent, and Diana, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Bates, of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr R.D. Lloyd and Miss A. Whitten
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs David Lloyd, of Stonegate, Sussex, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Whitten, of Bonnyrigg, Scotland.

Mr N.S. Manfreak and Miss S.D. Ackerman
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Simon, third son of Mr and Mrs Henry Manfreak, of Warrat, London, and Suzanne Dale, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Ackerman, of Capetown, South Africa.

Mr S. Noble and Miss G. Kevis
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.R. Noble, of Rimington, Clitheroe, Lancashire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Kevis, of Lower Lichfield Farm, Garstang, Lancashire.

After the war he joined the Foreign Office as press and information officer for northern Italy, but he resigned after the success of *Dead Ground*.

With his Italian wife, Renata, who had been active in the Italian Resistance, he

OBITUARY

LORD TAYLOR

Politics and medicine

Lord Taylor, who died on February 1, at the age of 77, combined distinguished work as psychiatrist and sociologist with a parliamentary career in the House of Commons in the first postwar Labour government, and, later, in the House of Lords. He helped in the formulation of the Labour Party's health and education programmes during the parliament of 1945-50.

His professional life was one of great variety, and included war service in the Royal Naval Reserve, and periods in Canada where, on one occasion, he settled a doctors' strike. Later, he served as Visiting Professor of Medicine at the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Stephen James Lake Taylor was born on December 30, 1910, and went to Stowe and London University, qualifying at St Thomas's Hospital. He specialised in industrial medicine and mental health and was the first physician to diagnose the problem of loneliness among housewives

married in the suburbs while their husbands were out at work. He explored this condition in his book, *The Suburban Neurosis* (1938). He was also, for a time, assistant editor of *The Lancet*.

When war began in 1939, he served as a neuro-psychiatric specialist in the RNVF, but in 1941 was claimed by the Ministry of Information, where he was Director of Home Intelligence, and also set up and directed the War-time Social Survey.

His ideas on a National

Health Service were also developing, and he wrote a series for the *Spectator* on the subject.

He had meanwhile joined the Labour Party, and drafted many health policy documents for it, which had a bearing on the subsequent shape of the National Health Service. In 1945 he resigned his Ministry post to stand as a Labour candidate in the general election. Elected for Barnet, he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council, and Deputy Prime Minister, from 1947 to 1950.

He lost his seat to Reginald Maudling in the general election of 1950, but continued active as an industrial consultant. From 1950 to 1964 he was a member of Harlow New Town Development Corporation, and served for two periods as medical director of Harlow's industrial health service. He also wrote his classic survey *Good General Practice*, in 1951.

Taylor was busy on a number of public bodies, among them the Beveridge Commission on Broadcasting and the Cohen Committee on General Practice within the NHS.

One of his more unusual assignments stemmed from his experience in helping to design the National Health Service. In 1962 the Government of Saskatchewan found itself beset by a doctors' strike, and Lord Taylor (he had been made a Life Peer — one of the first — in 1958) went out to Canada to try and resolve it.

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Taylor married, in 1939, Dr May Doris Charity Clifford, who had a distinguished career in her own right, as Assistant Director and Inspector of Prisons (Women), and as a Member of the BBC General Advisory Council.

MR JAMES KILLIAN

Mr James Killian, jun., who laid the groundwork for the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, died on January 29. He was 83.

Killian was no scientist. He was an administrator who understood both science and scientists and who could get men to work together towards a common goal.

When the Russians streaked ahead in the race for space with the launch of Sputnik I in 1957, American shock was total. Eisenhower reacted swiftly to redress the balance, and appointed Killian his special assistant for science and technology, with undefined powers.

James Rhyme Killian was born on July 24, 1904. He left his native South Carolina after two years at what is now Duke University and went as a student of "business and engineering administration" to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

He was admitted on the campus for his flair of engineering and gift for journalism. He edited the students' newspaper in his spare time, and, a few years after graduating, edited, from 1930 to 1939, the institute's own periodical *The Technology Review*.

His name first became a byword in the inner circles of government in 1941 when he re-organized the institute for a

massive research job in association with the War Production Board.

He became president of the institute in 1949. "We must continue," he declared in a rousing inaugural address, "to muster the democratic ranks of American scientists into invincible battalions."

Within the year he was brought into the government service by Truman, advising the Office of Defense Mobilization on science matters. In an age of suspicion, Killian resisted a move by the Massachusetts State attorney-general to compile a list of "subversive" organizations and publicly opposed the banning of alleged subversives from working for the state.

For some years he had been a voice in the wilderness, warning that the Russians would take a "clear lead" in developing an intercontinental ballistic missile unless the United States radically revised its policies.

And, before a sullen Congressional committee, he suggested a drastic reformation of the armed services and a transfer of funds from the stockpiling of conventional weapons to the subsidising of basic research in the universities.

When Eisenhower called on him in the wake of the Sputnik launch, Killian promised to move "as rapidly as

possible . . . to integrate American science in every proper way into national policymaking". He divided his time between MIT and the White House, where he was chairman of both the Army Science Advisory Panel and of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, keeping a watch on the CIA.

The fruit of these efforts was the birth of NASA, a civilian organization which put American aerospace research "under one roof" and put an end to the resource and time-consuming squabbles between the armed services. The first American went into space in 1961, and the first men landed on the moon in 1969.

Killian left two years later, in 1959, his work done. In his later years he held various business appointments, and had numerous awards conferred upon him.

James Killian was a notable product of the "managerial revolution". He kept the lines open between inventor, research student, philanthropist, manufacturer, and government.

His recreations were landscape painting and collecting first editions of the novels of George Meredith.

He married, in 1929, Elizabeth Parks, and they had a son and a daughter.

SIR RAYMOND WALTON

Sir Raymond Walton, who died on January 29, at the age of 72, was a Judge of the High Court, Chancery Division, from 1973 until his retirement at the beginning of the present law term, January 11.

In an age when judicial "characters" were becoming less common, Walton was a distinct "character". He combined a swift and often devastating assessment of the merits of a case (sometimes earlier than was wise, but rarely wrong) with a facility for colourful expression, a sharp wit, and an impatience with anything which he considered slipshod or second-rate.

Those who had experience of him found that his bark was a lot worse than his bite. At the Bar, his powers of advocacy won him a substantial practice.

In private, he was an entertaining and amusing companion, though given

sometimes to uncomfortable frankness. He was a man of industry, combining an extensive practice both as junior and silk (and, latterly, his duties on the Bench) with the editorship of a number of important legal text books.

Raymond Henry Walton was born on September 9, 1915, the son of Herbert Henry Walton, a well-known senior managing clerk with Slaughter and May. He was educated at Dulwich College and at Balliol, where he was an open scholar in mathematics.

While at Oxford, he was President of the Union. As a young man he was politically active as a Liberal and took part in the Jarrow march. Later, in 1945, he stood, unsuccessfully, for the Liberals at North Lambeth.

He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1939. The war intervened, and he served from 1940 to 1946 as an instructor and experimental

officer, in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

In 1963, he took silk, and he became a Bencher of his Inn in 1970. Following the sudden death of Mr Justice Ungood-Thomas in December, 1972, Walton was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Chancery Bench. Despite his undoubted abilities, he was never appointed to the Court of Appeal. For many years he was legal correspondent for *The Financial Times*, and in 1973 he became deputy chairman of the Boundaries Commission for England.

He was a devout Christian who, before to his elevation to the Bench, served the Church of England for four years as a Church Commissioner. He was also a keen philatelist.

His wife, Helen, whom he married in 1960, survives him with their son and daughter (another daughter died before him).

HOWARD CLEWES

Howard Clewes, novelist and screen writer, died on January 29, at the age of 75. He turned several of them into screenplays, most notably, perhaps, the Trevor Howard/Marlon Brando re-make of *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

He was a founder member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and one of its first trustees.

Howard Charles Vivian Clewes was born on October 27, 1912. During the 1930s he worked in various advertising agencies. He published his first novel when he was nineteen. He was a major in the Green Howards during the war, and the manuscript of his second novel, *Dead Ground*, went with him in his haversack throughout the Tunisian campaign.

After the war he joined the Foreign Office as press and information officer for northern Italy, but he resigned after the success of *Dead Ground*.

With his Italian wife, Renata, who had been active in the Italian Resistance, he

lived in the Dolomites where he wrote *The Unforgiven* and *The Mask of Wisdom*.

In the Dolomites, Clewes wrote, skied, and cut timber. He also spoke no English for eighteen months. He and his wife then lived in Florence and Capri for a year before moving to Milan, Venice, and, finally, to London.

Other novels followed, among them *The Long Memory*. Clewes turned several into successful screen plays, among them *Green Grow the Rushes* and *The Day They Robbed the Bank of England*.

Mr Jack Evans, MBE, a Grimsby trawler skipper who came to prominence during the first "Cod War" between Britain and Iceland, in 1958, has died at the age of 91.

He did valuable work as a liaison officer between the Royal Navy's patrolling ships and the trawler fleet during a period of considerable tension which resulted from the Icelandic government's decision to prohibit the entry of British vessels inside a 12-mile limit.

One of the great characters among Grimsby deep water skippers, Evans was appointed MBE for his service on Arctic convoys in 1942, and was subsequently awarded the Croix de Guerre for his work off the Normandy beaches.

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Blaming the book

I happened to be living in New York in 1980, a few blocks away from where John Lennon was shot on December 8. It is difficult to convey the local feelings about the murder: grief and outrage, certainly, but also a lack of surprise. To put it very crudely, given the atmosphere of the city, it is surprising that more celebrities were not shot. The pathology of celebrity-worship and its opposite pole, celebrity-hate, lay behind this killing, but they never emerged in open court as Mark Chapman pleaded guilty to the crime and the full investigation was never made public.

First Tuesday (ITV) attempted its own investigation and would have been an ideal radio programme, since it concentrated on Chapman's bizarre psychological make-up and used tapes of his conversations with the police. But to make it work on television, it had to resort to absurdities such as pictures of a disembodied tape recorder playing in an empty cell.

That reservation apart, this was a compelling hour. All the signs of instability were there to see: manic-depressive tendencies, a suicide attempt, and an inability to engage with the adult world, relying instead on friendship with children. But the sinister added factor was Chapman's reliance on a work of fiction as inspiration: *J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye* provided a precise model of the alienation which Chapman felt from the phony, hypocritical world of adults. Lennon, it seemed to him, was a childhood hero who had gone soft, bought a large and comfortable estate, and represented the betrayal of the adult world.

Thus far the programme was valuable. But when it went further and talked of the book as a murder weapon — stories can kill — on the ground that Chapman had it with him at the killing, it turned into sensationalist nonsense.

William Holmes

Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens tonight at the National Theatre, the first British production since Peter Hall gave it its controversial premiere, 30 years ago. Director Howard Davies (right) talked to Chris Peachment

From a playwright with whom we usually associate steam and magnolia, the published "notes for the designer" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* come as something of a surprise. Tennessee Williams speaks of the upper bed-sitting-room of Big Daddy's large Victorian plantation house with characteristic tenderness but paints an unusually cool, lyrical picture.

It is a place poetically haunted by the ghost of two old bachelors who once owned the plantation and lived together in the room. And a place in which there is "a quality of tender light on weathered wood, such as porch furniture made of bamboo and wicker, exposed to tropical suns and tropical rains... bringing to mind the grace and comfort of the light, the reassurance it gives, on a late and fair afternoon in summer, the way that no matter what, even dread of death, is gently touched and soothed by it."

Rest assured, however, that is just about the last grace note in a play which follows on with Williams's familiar knock-down drag-out cat fight between the various sexes on display.

There is Brick (played by Ian Charleson), the one-time sports star with his ankle in plaster, drinking himself into all round impotence. There is the Cat of the title, his childless wife (Lindsay Duncan), hounding in on his every vulnerable nerve and then twisting the knife. And there is his father, Big Daddy, (Eric Porter) dying of cancer and poisoning all around him. In between verbally clubbing each other senseless, however, they are given to great soaring cadenzas of poetic self-examination.

"I find that American plays are very, very good on character," says the director Howard Davies, "and less good on structure and plot, although this one is in fact well constructed. The thing about British writing is that it always tends to say something about the state of the nation. And our usual mode of expression is self-deprecatory and ironic. Especially irony. The Foreign Office has spent all its life saying

one thing and meaning its exact opposite.

"Whereas O'Neill can take a bar-room full of drunks, and make the comment on the society much more invisible. There is a strange poetry about these people who go off into long self-expressive riffs, which are not remotely naturalistic. It is just like when you meet Americans for the first time, they are so open and hospitable and honest about themselves, that it's a bit embarrassing."

This is Davies's first production since rowing across the river from the Royal Shakespeare Company to the National Theatre, a trip first taken by Sir Peter Hall, but surprisingly not much copied since. Davies ran the highly successful Warehouse for some five years, a travail which he found so exhausting that, when Trevor Nunn offered him the Pit at the Barbican, his response was "Aaagh, no, please, no."

After announcing his departure from the RSC with no particular place to go ("bad for the nerves, especially if you're not single"), it was only a matter of three weeks before he was invited by Hall to come to the National to do three plays.

With the next regime under Richard Eyre, he will become a more permanent fixture as an Associate Director with a company to call his own. The record of his productions: three plays by Edward Bond, Brecht, O'Neill and Saroyan, mixed in among David Edgar, David Mercer and Trevor Griffiths, would suggest a man more at home in the Royal Court.

It is interesting that the theatres which have made their mark historically have always been committed to new writing. Reviving and re-examining the classics is a necessary function in order to know where you stand in history, and they should be done by the big subsidized companies, or else more radically, by people like Brick by Jowl.

"It is only 30 years since this play was first done, and yet it feels as though I'm doing a history piece. The



central figure, Brick, seems like so many of those disaffected youths of the Fifties, of whom James Dean is the archetype.

"He will not subscribe to his father's code of ethics. He will not accept the inherited mantle of materialism, on which American society was founded in those days; he wants to fight this kind of empire. And yet he lacks the voice to say so."

"And so he is destroying his life through drink, while still trying to re-define. All those film heroes then were men who wanted to be sensitive. Indeed rather androgynous. It may be the first time that men became sex objects, the first time they were seen as sexy."

"There is a greater problem for Lindsay Duncan, playing Cat, which is to try to remove oneself to a world

before there was a feminist consciousness. It is very hard to imagine what it must have been like.

"To create a woman tearing herself apart in a sexual contest with her husband and not raise feminist issues, one has to be very selective about her way of doing things and not turn her into a heroine." It is interesting to note that Williams himself altered the third act of the play, at the original director Elia Kazan's request, partly because he felt increasingly charmed by the character of Maggie the Cat and wanted her to be more clearly sympathetic to the audience.

Williams had the reputation of writing great meaty roles for women, and Maggie the Cat is no exception. It is instructive and also plausible, in the mind's eye, to imagine the role embodied by a man. But that would be another story.

New age, old wave

As a three-day showcase of New Age music begins at the Purcell Room, David Sinclair considers the quiet success of recent years

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No, it's not a travel brochure from 1968, but the sleeve notes to a Global Pacific sampler album called *The Fruits of Our Labor*, which is the current best-selling title in the New Age section at Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus. The racks there are stuffed with records and CDs by artists such as Andreas Vollenweider, Kitaro and George Winston, hardly household names, but already worldwide million-selling acts.

So far however, attempts to stage New Age concerts have had mixed results. There were early departures from Harold Budd and Roger Eno's shows last November, and one critic swiftly left a recent Michael Nyman recital deafened and dismayed.

Undeterred, Nick Austin, the owner of the first British New Age record label, Coda, is promoting a three-day showcase of his company's acts at the Purcell Room, starting tonight with Stephen Caudel and Claire Hamill. "The future for this type of music is people being seen playing live," he says. "Part of the New Age concept is for the public to be able to go out and see live artists again in comfortable surroundings."

The problem seems to be in

identifying and satisfying the needs of an extremely ill-defined audience.

The handy cliché is to say that New Age is wallpaper music for yuppies, a theory reinforced by reports from America, of harassed businessmen being advised by medical "experts" to use ambient music as a psychological tool for relieving stress. Austin draws certain distinctions here: "Musically you're giving artists paint brushes and letting them paint something. Wallpaper is when you get a roller to do the job. When you give somebody an easel and some oils and a canvas, that's painting. British New Age is impressionist painting, as opposed to some of the American ambient stuff, which I agree can be more like decorating."

But as well as throwing up an array of new acts, New Age is also rehabilitating many an old star from the Seventies and before. Rick Wakeman's *Country Airs* album is Coda's best-selling release to date. The Purcell Room dates feature sets by the guitarist Michael Chapman, (best remembered for his 1970 album with Mick Ronson, *Fully Qualified Survivor*), the keyboardist Eddie Harris, (formerly of the Spencer Davis Group and Hardin & York) and Claire Hamill.

Hamill's case is typical. Having built a modest reputation as a folk singer/songwriter and guitarist in the early Seventies, her career took a nosedive during punk, a period she remembers as a nightmare. Now she has found New Age and all is well again.

"I feel like I've reverted to how I was when I first came into the business: young and full of general bonhomie," she says. To her, New Age music has nothing but positive values. "There's so many things about today, like the terrible pace of living, that take away from us. You need beautiful music to fill you back up again."

Still a delightful ear-bash

THEATRE

A Wholly Healthy Glasgow

Twelve months ago, after the premiere of this Mobil prize-winning play in Manchester, I described it as a rich, unpredictable comedy, and the funniest play I have seen in months.

Now in London, after near capacity business at Manchester and in Edinburgh, Ian Heggie's dialogue again comes bashing at the ear with a rare ripeness, packed with expletives and elaborate insults, unprintable in a family newspaper; the rhythms in his power struggle between the three characters will still be unpredicted by a newcomer; but, though I have not recently seen a funnier play, a subtle change in the production obliges me to modify my earlier rapture.

A sickness has come into some of the playing, born I dare say of the cast's long familiarity with their roles. Tom Watson is queenier in his gestures as the bent masseur,



Gerard Kelly (left), Paul Higgins and Tom Watson

spreading his fingers wider and tucking in the corners of his mouth more often. But otherwise there is none of the playing for laughs that tempts performers long used to each other and over-familiar with what pleases an audience. Yet, without the shock effect contained in that first performance, the occasions when the action slows to a crawl are too frequent, and when this occurs, the vivid language looks in danger of disappearing up its own arseholes.

The move from Manchester's open stage to

proscenium arch has forced alterations to Sue Plummer's designs. The potted plants in the massage room are taller; unnecessary lights snake around the words "Spartan Health Club" above the stage, and a painted frieze shows toughies doing inspiring acts with weights.

In these seedy premises in a Glasgow back street, the masseur and the senior instructor, the one bent, the other crooked, have established a profitable system that brings extra cash to the instructor and to the masseur, a string of clients ready to avail themselves of his magic hands, the ambiguously termed *april massage*.

Their realm is threatened by the arrival of pink-cheeked, wide-eyed, earnest Murdoch, fresh from his initiation training course at Pontefract. The play's title is his aim. He wants to make Glasgow "a city of perfectly proportioned, sinuous but not over-developed physiques... a city of reposeful but alert minds."

The hurdles obstructing this laudable, but ludicrous, aim and his own cautiously blossoming confidence, provide the comic material of the evening.

The dancing patterns of the dialogue, mixing gutter argot with a quaint formality, owe something to the street-wise plays of Mamet; but from the compost heap of the "Glasgow" tongue, Heggie draws a batty, extravagant comedy all his own. At first Gerard Kelly's instructor is well-nigh incomprehensible to the Sassenach, but the ear adapts itself in time.

The three actors inhabit their roles with the confidence of long experience, and the character of Murdoch Caldwell, with his transfixing honesty and angelic trust in the wisdom of his superiors, is a sublimely comic role. I cannot imagine seeing the performance of Paul Higgins bettered.

Jeremy Kingston

OPERA

Cendrillon

Royal College of Music

It will, I hope, only be a matter of time before we are hearing more of Massenet in the big houses than just his *Werther* and *Manon*. The Royal College of Music are showing the way this week, in a production of his 14th opera, *Cendrillon*, which I could imagine taking its place without too much discomfort in the Coliseum's own fairy-tale stable.

This is a *Cendrillon* close enough to Perrault to provide truly Gallic enchantment and whimsicality, and far enough away from Rossini's *Cendrillon* to switch the attention from the comic hurly-burly of the ugly sisters

Strange and wonderful fairies and flunkies

to the parents. The dominating step-mother (Bridget Budge) and the loving father (Guy Harbottle) remind us that Massenet's public was the one which provided French with his first patients...

Marc Adam, directing for the College, doesn't labour the point. His skill, like that of his designer, Richard Ballwinkle, is to combine emotional naturalism and the high fantastic, in a production which brings a new style of operatic chic to College staging. The problem of handling chorus and dance — all fairies and flunkies in a small space — is solved neatly. Led by Massenet's bizarre roll-call of Master of Ceremonies, Dean, Prime Minister and King, they peer and peek, costumed in rich purples and crimines, round the angles of a single, tilted, black dais.

A huge midnight clock face dominates Act Two, in which the Prince reveals himself as a proper little Werther ("tous les jours sont amoureux"). And a rising moon (identical to the one in ENO's *Hansel and Gretel*) reveals the fairy godmother, as the air clears for Cendrillon's own yearning aria. Anne Rannin, as the Fairy (the production is double cast) found her tinkly coloratura testing; Linda Clemens was an excitable, nervous

Cendrillon, bright and supple enough for her most athletic music.

Despite Massenet's wish for a soprano, this Prince Charming is cast as a tenor, and Philip Sheffield sang with ardour and style. The English find Massenet's arching melodies, with their emotionally charged yet finely nuanced contours, so difficult: James Lockhart, conducting the RCM Sinfonia, lessened the anxiety and was a strong advocate for this oddly proportioned yet strange and wonderful pageant of entertainment.

Hilary Finch

JAZZ

Flora Purim

Ronnie Scott's, London

It is more than 20 years since Brazil enjoyed a brief moment of jazz glory, when the João Gilberto and his associates attracted the interest of established artists such as Stan Getz. For a while, singers such as Astrud Gilberto, incidentally appearing at Hammersmith Odeon on Sunday, seemed the last word in cool sophistication.

Gilberto's contemporary, Flora Purim — now based in the United States — has survived by adapting to the demands of both pop and jazz. With her husband, Airto Moreira, she was a member of the first Return To Forever band in the early 1970s.

Purim's current backing group, The Celebration Band, is a slick electric quintet of the kind which works to best effect in a dance venue rather than a night club. Dominated by Moreira's sprawling percussion kit, the group moved with ease from traditional samba to more contemporary, David Sanborn-style jazz-funk. Purim wisely kept a rein on the more extended instrumental tunes as she switched between English and Portuguese.

After the breathless opening themes, Purim was in more reflective mood on one of her most familiar numbers, Milton Nascimento's "Nothing Will Be As It Was", a song covered on Sarah Vaughan's latest LP. Accompanied at first only by keyboard and percussion, Purim allowed the beat to ebb and flow before bringing in the rest of the band for the driving, up-tempo passages.

Clive Davis



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CHIEF OF POLICE

صبرنا من الراحل

Carlucci agrees defence 'summit'

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, has agreed to hold talks with the Soviet Defence Minister, Mr Dmitri Yozov in Bern before the end of March.

The meeting will be the first top-level discussion between the superpowers' defence ministers since the Vienna summit in 1979, when Mr Harold Brown, President Carter's Defence Secretary, met Mr Dmitri Ustinov.

Mr Carlucci's acceptance of a long-standing Soviet proposal is in sharp contrast to the attitude of Mr Caspar Weinberger, his predecessor, who exchanged letters with Mr Yozov, but expressed scepticism about what he called unjustified attempts by Moscow to influence US policy.

Administration officials have also announced that Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, the influential Soviet Chief of the General Staff, will visit the US later this year at the invitation of Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. The two met at the Pentagon during the December summit.

Marshal Akhromyev, a deputy Defence Minister, has played a leading role in arms control negotiations. Admiral Crowe, after their meeting, called him "straightforward, candid, non-polemical". He may visit the Mid West and California during his tour. In return, Admiral Crowe will visit Russia next year.

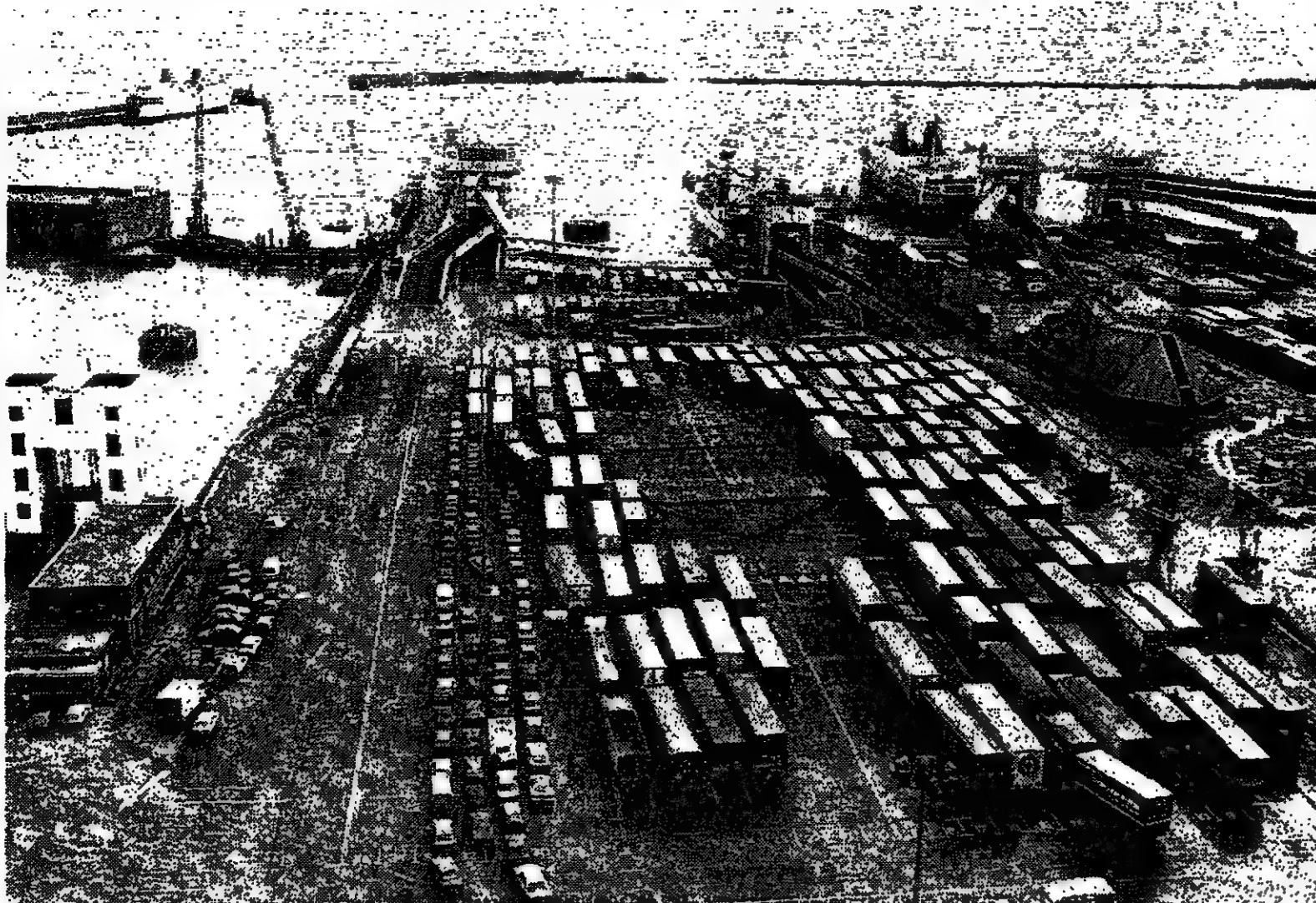
The date of the Carlucci-Yozov visit will be fixed after Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has returned from Moscow, where he is going on February 21 as part of a series of monthly meetings with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to prepare for the next summit. Meetings between top Soviet and US military leaders have been rare since the beginning of the cold war, and are seen as an important sign of better relations.

The agenda for the Bern meeting has already been agreed, and may include Soviet proposals for a meeting of experts to discuss the vexed issue of what new technologies may be tested in space according to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Mr Carlucci is said to have proposed the meeting in Bern because Switzerland is a neutral country.

Mr Carlucci, meanwhile, in another surprising apparent reversal of Pentagon policy, said he now supports the deployment of the controversial MX missiles on railcars instead of in missile silos as a way of protecting them.

He told the Senate foreign relations committee that he had "some problems" with the way the nuclear missiles were now based. His remarks appear to jeopardize the multi-billion-dollar programme, which has already begun, to put 50 MX missiles in silos. This is the heart of the Administration's strategic modernization programme.

Lorry queues lengthen at Dover



Lorries and cars queuing at Dover yesterday as drivers wait to join the ferries still running across the Channel. Sealink's St Asenian lies idle at top left.

Continued from page 1

of action at most British ports and statements by one of the union's leaders that he was prepared to go to jail over the strike call.

Union leaders had spent several hours with their lawyers yesterday and called an emergency meeting of their executive council for Friday. But they gave no orders to call off strike action by their members.

Mr Roger Wilkins, the NUS deputy general secretary, said the union was involved in a "death fight" for survival and had nothing to lose. He said on BBC Breakfast Television that both he and Mr Sam McCluskie, NUS general secretary, were quite prepared to go to jail "if that is what it takes". He agreed that a court battle could mean the end of the union, which had limited funds.

He added: "There is nowhere left to go. If people do not have jobs, there is no union anyway. This is a death fight."

Mr McCluskie denied that the strike was secondary action since Sealink and P&O, which obtained the injunctions, were trying to bring in staff-cutting measures.

Two more ferry companies applied successfully for court orders in Scotland yesterday banning the strike.

At the Edinburgh Court of Session, Lord Sutherland granted two separate petitions. One was brought by P&O Fleet Management, of Altrincham, Cheshire, which runs the Belfast-Adriatic ferry, and P&O European Ferries, which runs the Calumry-Larne service.

At the Edinburgh hearing, Mr Ralph Smith, for the



Striking ferryman on board Sealink's Isle of Man packet ship Tynwald, moored yesterday at Heysham.

December 29 over plans to cut staff.

Sealink services to the Continent were at a standstill throughout the day, but Dutch and French ships were "coping" with the light cross-Channel winter traffic. P&O services ran normally all day out of Dover until mid-afternoon when the crew of the Pride of Dover ferry refused to sail. The only other problem they had was the service from Felixstowe to Zeebrugge, which was cancelled, affecting 45 passengers.

The NUS had called the strike in support of 161 crewmen who had taken strike action against the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company on

Carnival on nurses' picket line

Continued from page 1

Paul McNulty said: "In Barnsley, 75 per cent of us have voted for strike action. It is not just about pay. It is about the conditions in the NHS."

Nurses continued to wave placards until dusk at passing drivers. "Toot if You Support Nurses". All day, tooting horns competed with the music and chanting, and cheering pensioners joined in.

The hospital's out-patients waiting room filled up but nobody protested at being left to wait.

"Isn't it amazing - the support we have?" said Mr Chris Hart, chairman of Cobse's Mansfield branch.

One RCN member identified himself on the picket line. Mr Richard Frisby came along during his break saying: "I am here to support the Cobse nurses but not taking part in this strike."

Miss Julia Davies, aged 26, and Mr Chris Cowley, aged 29, were two of the RCN staff who worked double shifts yesterday. Mr Cowley came in on his day off - but both said they are considering joining Cobse to be free to take future strike action.

"We are working all day so that our friends in Cobse can go on strike," Mr Cowley said. "I would strike if I was offered the chance. Morale is so low and working in the NHS in Britain is so frustrating. We all feel the same way and we are all prepared to resort to desperate measures to get our message across."

Thatcher condemns strikers

Continued from page 1

did draw attention to the fact that in the last four pay awards the Government had funded 93 per cent of the rises recommended", said a spokesman.

Last night, the RCN issued a statement saying that its press conference was a success and was reflected in newspaper reports. "If the Government insists on using ambiguous terminology, then nurses will draw their own conclusions. The RCN does not believe there could be any clear or compelling reasons for not implementing or fully funding the award in 1988."

Mr Hector Mackenzie, general secretary of Cobse, criticized Mr Moore for not taking the opportunity to sort out the problems with the unions. "He failed to take the issue by the horns and give a message of hope to the nurses," he said.

"Mr Moore had nothing to say to the people of this country about the funding of the health service. There is no hope for these people who are trying to save the NHS."

Piggott back

Lester Piggott, the jockey, left Norwich prison hospital yesterday and returned to Highpoint prison, Stradishall, Suffolk, where he collapsed nine days ago. He is serving three years for tax frauds.

Commons sketch

Sweets to disguise nurses' bitter pill

It was, announced Mr Michael Meacher, Mr Norman Fowler's 50th birthday. In these dark days, such anniversaries bring a small dollop of diversionary joy to the house. Should the health crisis continue, it is strongly rumoured that the Government will insist on celebrating each and every member's birthday, and much else besides. "I take great pleasure in announcing that today Mr Norman Fowler is fifty and a half," a junior minister will announce to a jubilant house in July, and loyal backbenchers will go cock-a-hoop, waving their order papers to the sky.

There was more good news to come. A junior minister for employment announced that he had recently visited something called The Chocolate Experience. Mr Cyril Smith's ears pricked up. The junior minister for employment had brought back some great news from The Chocolate Experience. "No less than 40 Kit-Kats are consumed in this country each second", he trumpeted. Mr Cyril Smith grinned with satisfaction, nudging his neighbours and looking all around, perhaps in envious search of the person who ate the other thirty seven.

The Prime Minister informed the House that she had met Chancellor Kohl in the morning. Following last Sunday's revelations that Chancellor Kohl had once again met with Mrs Thatcher "on urgent business", only to be discovered minutes later stuffing a cream bun into his mouth at a nearby cafe, political correspondents were not slow in putting two and two together. Chancellor Kohl was quite obviously now zipping his way towards The Chocolate Experience even as Mrs Thatcher spoke to the House. Mr Tony Benn might like to consider the strong possibility that The Chocolate Experience is in fact a crude tactic by an elected government to take attention off the crisis in the NHS.

Alternatively, he might well argue that, with forty Kit-Kats a second being consumed, it is all part of a greater plot to bring dental care to its knees. No great sweet-eater herself, Mrs Thatcher seemed anxious to avoid the subject, concentrating as is her wont, on facts and figures. As ever,

the figures she most enjoyed chewing were those of the last Labour Government, her own always being susceptible to the allegation of having holes in the middle. When the Member for Ynys Mon informed her that nurses in his constituency were spending their free time organizing events to purchase more medical equipment, she reported, "In 1978-79... a sentence broken by the harsh cackles of the Opposition. 'The facts! The facts!' she yelled over the cackling, going on to spit out percentage increases from Ynys Mon.

Mr Nicholas Soames, who gives the impression that, over the years, not a few Sherbet Fountains have found their final resting place in his mouth, bounced up to ask the Prime Minister to pour scorn on the suggestion that a nurses' strike would not be dangerous. "Well done, Fatsol!" belted an impolite Labour backbencher, perhaps not realizing that it takes Allsorts.

Mr Kinnock opened his crumpled paper bag and offered Mrs Thatcher her pick: NHS, NHS, or NHS. Was Mr Clay accurate in his impression that the Nurses' pay award would be fully-funded by the Government, yes or no? Perhaps realizing that this was one that she had returned half-chewed last week, Mrs Thatcher seemed reluctant to bite it again, though she said that she would be "quite happy to read out" the statement issued by the Royal College of Nurses.

"Yes or No! Yes or No!" chorused the Opposition as Mrs Thatcher began to read out the long statement in full. Mr Roy Hattersley, yesterday's burst bubble-gum stick inextricably stuck to the Front Benches, put on his concerned-and-indignant look again. Mr Kinnock placed his dreaded paper bag on the despatch box. What would be the Government's reasons for not properly funding the pay award? And again - "Is she saying she will not offer an undertaking?" The Prime Minister looked exasperated. On Norman's 50th birthday of all days! she seemed to be huffing; was there no end to the Opposition's hard cases?

Craig Brown

Gay rights protesters abseil into the Lords

Continued from page 1

against the homosexual community. It is understood that the contentious word of Clause 28 was drawn up by Sir Patrick Mayhew and went before the full Cabinet for final approval. It was drafted after a group of Conservative backbenchers succeeded in adding a similar clause to the Bill while it was going through the Commons.

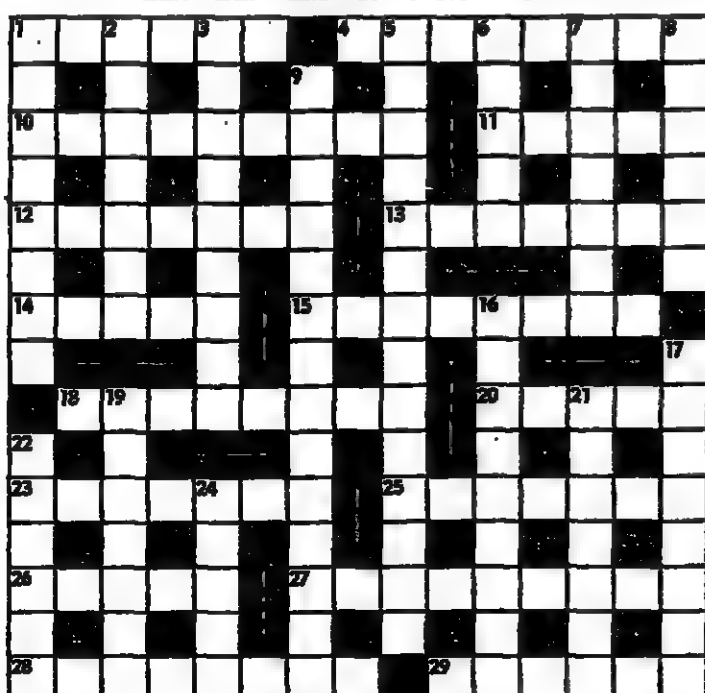
Opponents of the clause as it stands lost all attempts on Monday night to tighten its scope.

Although ministers in the

Commons have been at pains to insist that the arts will not be caught by the clause, under pressure Lord Catterall, the Environment Minister in the Lords, admitted that councils which supported a series of pro-homosexual plays or held a special display of books on homosexuality in their libraries could face action.

It is understood that the Environment Ministers feel more strongly in favour of Clause 28 than colleagues in the Departments of Education and Science and Health and Social Security.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,582



- ACROSS**
- 1 Married woman is 19 (6).
 - 4 Weaken when police come back in, and give up (8).
 - 10 Terminated without a messy injury (9).
 - 11 Bird call caught by chance (5).
 - 12 Foreigner said to come first at university examination (5,2).
 - 13 It makes me a lord (7).
 - 14 Ruled and guided without having been elected (5).
 - 15 Gopher wood used for it - northern hardwood with spots about in it (5,3).
 - 18 Landlord breaks silence before the last of the ale (8).
 - 20 A lot of shops can have almost incredible novelties when they first open (5).
 - 23 Ruler taking a bit of fruit (7).
 - 25 On the whole, it provides protection (7).
 - 26 Foreign national I encountered therein (5).
 - 27 Brush blue carpet (5,4).
- DOWN**
- 28 Longing to swallow the drink lying around, but procrastinating (8).
 - 29 Produced a harsh sound, the band, for an audience (6).
 - 1 12's in charge, wearing decorations (8).
 - 2 Helping you to forget three articles (not all in English) (7).
 - 3 American uterine, a little bird ending with a D (9).
 - 5 Monkey that bees disturbed, similarly (2,3,4,5).
 - 6 Run into fashionable cowardly fellow (5).
 - 7 For instance, lower rent (7).
 - 8 Dane, perhaps, reads Kipling's book in English as well (6).
 - 9 In holds I submit, to stay in practice (4,4,4,2).
 - 16 It follows when crocuses are treated with sulphur (9).
 - 17 Tending to be incorporated with 14 (8).
 - 19 I shall leave behind hard feelings (3,4).
 - 21 True-blue's claim about love (7).
 - 22 One's left with a key (6).
 - 24 Get some round number (5).

Concise crossword, page 12

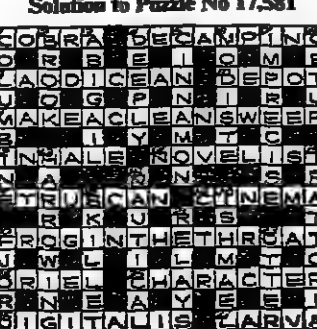
WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

COLOUR BIND
By Philip Howard

- CELADON**
a. Silver gilt
b. Willow green
c. Yellow ochre
- ISABEL**
a. Golden
b. Azure blue
c. Brownish yellow
- CYAN**
a. Heraldic violet
b. Dark blue
c. Magenta
- AMARANTHINE**
a. Purple
b. Colourless
c. Golden

Answers page 20, column 1



Solution to Puzzle No 17,581

WEATHER
It will be rather cloudy and showery, some showers will be heavy with hail, and snow is likely, mainly over the higher ground. The East will have brighter, drier spells. However, southern England will be affected by frontal troughs and may be more cloudy with some longer spells of rain or snow, especially early and late in the day. It will be rather cold and windy. Outlook: continuing very unsettled.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Alaska	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Algeria	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

LONDON

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

MANCHESTER

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
Manchester	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

NOON TODAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear
London	18-24	10-15	1-2	Clear

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

سكيا من الامم

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1420.1 (-3.0)
FT-SE 100
1774.4 (-2.5)
Bargains
24230 (27907)
USM (Datastream)
147.52 (+0.26)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7685 (+0.0105)
W German mark
2.9773 (+0.0001)
Trade-weighted
74.4 (+0.2)

'Insider' inquiry at Shield

Government inspectors are investigating a possible case of insider dealing in the shares of Shield Group, the USM-quoted housebuilder. Their appointment was prompted by a 50 per cent rise in the Shield share price to 240p in the ten days before news of a £12 million financing deal by Mr Gerald Ronsom's Heron Corporation last March.

Following a report in *The Times* yesterday the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that an official investigation into dealings in Shield shares between December 1 1986 and March 20 1987 has been in progress since November 5.

In a statement last night Shield said it knew of "no such contraventions by the directors who are co-operating fully with the inspectors in their investigations."

It is understood that the DTI's attention was alerted by the Stock Exchange, which investigates all unusual share price movements.

Unitech up
Unitech, the electronics group, reported pretax profits up 16 per cent to £5.3 million in the six months to end-November, but warned that second-half results would be similar to those for the same period last year. Sales increased by 3 per cent to £105 million. An interim dividend of 3.1p was declared (2.6p).
Times, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	Dow Jones 1988.83 (-5.807)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average 23672.21 (-60.11)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng 2286.50 (-59.77)
Amsterdam	Amsterdamsche 220.5 (-1.0)
Sydney	Sydney 100 1240.6 (+0.1)
Frankfurt	Frankfurter 1232.1 (+0.0)
Brussels	Brussels 2592.7 (+0.2)
Paris	Paris CAC 2547.2 (+2.9)
Zurich	Zurich S&K 404.7 (-13.2)
London	FT-30 Share 1420.1 (-3.0)
FT-100	1774.4 (-2.5)
Gold	Gold Mines 257.3 (+4.5)
FT 1000	FT 1000 85.08 (+0.31)
Govt Secs	Govt Secs 85.35 (+0.18)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISER	Turnbull Scott 5550 (+300)
J. P. Morgan	10250 (+200)
Bulfinch	4750 (+300)
AC	43750 (+500)
Henderson Admin	7000 (+250)
Church	4500 (+100)
Central TV	53350 (+110)
Cullens	8500 (+250)
Lloyds	2250 (+110)
Genetec	1100 (+100)
M Clark	3800 (+100)
Yale & Vior	2800 (+110)

FALLS	
Legal & General	8640 (-180)
Parsons	2740 (-130)
Parsons	7420 (-200)
Prudential	10250 (-200)
CD Brimall	6000 (-150)
Eva (Whitbread)	8050 (-200)
Unitec	1930 (-220)
Smurfit	4100 (-100)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank 9.5%
3-month eligible bills 8.5-9.5%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8.5-9%
Federal Funds 6.1-6.5%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.75-5.71%
30-year bonds 10.5-10.5%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
\$: £1.7685	\$: £1.7713
DM: £2.9773	DM: £2.9773
¥: £1.5715	¥: £1.5715
FF: £1.0433	FF: £1.0433
Yen 228.81	Yen 228.20
Index 94.4	Index 94.4
ECU £0.94814	SDR £0.774229

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$455.15 pm \$455.90
close \$456.00-456.50 (\$258.00-258.50)
New York
Comex \$456.50-456.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar.) pm \$15.25bbl (\$16.25)
Denotes latest trading price

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Commodities	24	Commodity	27
Foreign	24	Foreign	28
City Diary	25	Unit Trusts	28
Wall Street	26	USM Prices	28

GrandMet in £150m sale

Public house disposals 'not linked' to inquiry

By Cliff Feltham

Grand Metropolitan, the brewing and hotels company, is selling nearly 700 tenanted public houses in one of the largest disposals programmes of its kind, expected to raise almost £150 million.

But the group yesterday denied that the surprise announcement was linked to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the future of tied houses.

"There is no connection at all. These pubs are being sold even if the investigation was not taking place," said the group.

The pubs are being sold in three geographical parcels, and already a number of leading brewers and leisure groups have expressed an interest in bidding. Grand Metropolitan said negotiations were at an advanced stage.

A total of 380 public houses are located in London, the Home Counties and East Anglia, trading under the banner of Manns Northampton Brewery and the Norwich Brewery Company.

Another block of 210 pubs is situated in the North and the Midlands under the umbrella of the Samuel Webster and Wilsons brand. A further 100 pubs are in the South and South-west, operated as part of Watney Combe Reid & Truman. The intention is to find a single buyer for each group.

The properties being sold do not rank as the jewels in the group's brewing crown, and those in rural areas, according to analysts, are probably barely breaking even. As a result, the eventual buyers could very well decide to prune the portfolio by further disposals or even closures.

The planned disposals follow a large ranging review of GrandMet's overall brewing operations.

While the number of public houses being sold is large — and the biggest change of ownership since the Australian Elders DXL group bought the Courage portfolio — it still represents only 12 per cent of the group's total number of public houses, and makes up less than 5 per cent of the estate's beer sales and less than 2 per cent of overall beer sales.

GrandMet pointed out that after the disposals it would be left with 3,600 tenanted pubs and 1,750 managed outlets. Last year, the group earned trading profits of just over £100 million from its brewing activities.

Mr John McGrath, the chairman and managing director of Grand Metropolitan Brewing, said: "The disposal of this group of properties is no reflection on the individual viability of each of the businesses concerned. It simply means these pubs do not fit in with the group's needs for the future, nor with our policy of concentrating on those outlets in which we see special potential."

Analysts immediately started speculating on likely bidders for the pubs. Among those being actively canvassed were Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery, Devolish, Belhaven, Buckley's, First Leisure, and Midsummer Leisure.

"We will look at the pubs and then take a view, but we are not interested in taking on pubs in deficit areas. They have no real place in the 1990s," said the company.

Mr John Dunsmore of Wood Mackenzie, the broker, said: "GrandMet takes a hard-nosed view of its brewing profits and is right to be clearing out pubs which do not offer the best growth prospects. The money raised can be better spent in areas where it is already investing heavily, such as in the Chef & Brewer and Bernal outlets."

GrandMet is officially bowing out of the fight for Martell and tending the 21.8 per cent stake it has built up in the French cognac house to Seagram, the Canadian spirits group which on Monday offered £525 million for the company. GrandMet will pocket a profit of nearly £40 million, from the sale.

The Martell family, which last week accepted an offer of FF3,300 (£329) a share from GrandMet, has pledged its pivotal 41 per cent stake to the increased FF3,475-a-share offer from Seagram.

Dixons joins Wigfalls fray with £16m offer

By Carol Ferguson

Dixons Group, the electricals retail chain, weighed into the battle for Wigfalls, the Midlands electricals retailer, with a £16 million recommended cash offer — £2 million higher than the £14 million all-share offer from Bennett & Fountain.

A programme of aggressive buying in the market at the 225p offer price has taken Dixons' stake in Wigfalls up to 30.1 per cent, at which level it has a Rule Nine unconditional offer. This means it is conditional only on Dixons receiving 50 per cent of Wigfalls and the offer not being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Dixons believes the bid will not be referred to the MMC because Wigfalls' market share is less than 1 per cent and the combination will not change Dixons' position in the market.

Bennett & Fountain, the acquisition-minded electricals wholesaler and retailer based in the South and East of England, said it was undaunted by the Dixons bid, and its directors would be meeting this morning to decide on strategy.

Mr Stephen Coleman, Bennett's finance director, claimed Dixons was buying Wigfalls to keep Bennett & Fountain out. "It is something of a David and Goliath situation, but we are not daunted by it," he added.

Bennett owns 3 per cent of Wigfalls' shares and has irrevocable acceptances for another 25 per cent from big shareholders. These shareholders are tied to Bennett until it bows out of the bidding.

"I don't think we will bow out without having another look because there is merit in the deal, and we see benefit in it for ourselves," Mr Coleman said.

Times, page 24

Cut in US prime rates leads to dollar falls

Leading US banks cut prime rates from 8.75 to 8.5 per cent yesterday after the publication of figures showing further weakness in the US economy.

The prime rate cut, while in line with easier money market interest rates in the US, led to a bout of profit-taking in the dollar. Because of this reaction the Federal Open Market Committee, which meets next week, is likely to be cautious about reducing the official discount rate.

JP Morgan led the rate cut and was quickly followed by other leading banks, including Continental Illinois, Chemical Bank, Citicorp, Chase Manhattan and Bankers Trust.

The dollar fell by a penny to DM1.6835 and from ¥129.33 to ¥128.25. The pound rose by 1.05 cents to £1.7685.

The US leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said. This was the third successive fall after declines of 0.1 per cent in October and 1.2 per cent in November.

Three successive falls normally indicate an impending recession.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, the chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, said the fall in the leading indicators showed the economy was slowing.

The dollar fell by a penny to DM1.6835 and from ¥129.33 to ¥128.25. The pound rose by 1.05 cents to £1.7685.

Comment, page 25.

US dissension over response to Black Monday

Greenspan rejects reforms

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday strongly opposed stock market reforms under consideration by Congress, which he said would drive business to London and Tokyo.

In Congressional testimony on October's market crash, Mr Greenspan said the shift in business to overseas markets could have a negative, weakening effect on the US economy when Americans are struggling to reduce their enormous deficits.

But influential Congressional officials, expressing their fears that the market could crash again, indicated they may move faster than anyone had anticipated to enact reforms this year by attaching the proposals to a comprehensive banking bill. The reforms could become part of proposed legislation to amend the depression-spawned Glass-Steagall Act, which prevents banks from entering the securities business.

Mr Nicholas Brady, the Wall Street investment banker who headed a presidential commission on the crash, testified there was an urgent need to pass reforms to prevent a recurrence of the October 19 breakdown. "We are looking down the barrel and the gun is still loaded," he said.

The testimony by Mr Brady and by Mr Greenspan illustrated clearly the dissension among market professionals and government regulators over how to respond to the crash.

During the opening days of Senate hearings, the most comprehensive review of Black Monday, officials stated repeatedly their concerns that a heavy-handed response would penalize US markets, driving business overseas.

Overall, there appears to be a growing consensus among Congressional officials that certain steps must be taken to correct deficiencies in the market structure, and that some of these steps may have to be taken quickly, perhaps on an interim basis.

Overall, there was general recognition that a broader regulatory structure encompassing both the securities and futures markets must be created. The Federal Reserve Board was the first choice of most senators to play this broader role.

In addition, Congressional officials agreed that proposed reforms must be fashioned in a global context and that ways must be found to protect small investors. These were the three big issues which emerged.

Mr Brady told a senate committee that some reforms could be enacted without Congressional legislation. For example, he said that the main exchanges should be requested by Congress, and by separate regulatory agencies, to develop one central clearing operation within a six-month period.

The proposal would be strongly denounced by Mr Greenspan, and would require a much more comprehensive system of information gathering. As proposed by the Brady report the new system would require a detailed listing of the time a trade was executed, the amounts purchased, the specific shares sold and the identity of the buyers. Mr Greenspan described the proposal as a clear invasion of privacy.



Expanding horizons: Stathis Papoutas (left) and Jack Wilson in their office overlooking St Katharine Dock, London (Photograph by Ros Drinkwater)

London Forfating launches £150m USM share sale

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Jack Wilson and Mr Stathis Papoutas, who run London Forfating, the trade financing group, are planning to launch their company on the Unlisted Securities Market next week.

The flotation will be significant for several reasons. About £80 million of equity will be involved, making it one of the largest USM offerings. As an offer for sale, it will be the steepest test of investor demand for junior market shares since Black Monday. Thirdly, it will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in a fast-growing company in a highly specialized field of finance.

The company has a short but spectacular record since it was formed in 1984. Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas were backed by Mr John Guna, whose British and Commonwealth group has 85 per cent of the equity. B&C's stake will be diluted to 40 per cent after the flotation, which will, subject to market conditions, raise about £40 of fresh capital. Market capitalization will be about £150 million.

Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas established themselves as leaders in the development of forfating during the 1970s. After a spell at Morgan Grenfell, Mr Wilson set up Hungarian International Bank, a London subsidiary of the National Bank of Hungary. The bank produced returns on capital of between 21 per cent and 40 per cent during the six years before Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas left to found London Forfating.

During that time they wrested a sizeable share of the European forfating market from Swiss banks which traditionally dominated the business. Forfating is a technique whereby exporters sell the debt due from importers to an intermediary, such as London Forfating. The debt, usually in the form of promissory notes or bills of exchange, is discounted according to the risks involved and current money market rates. The forfater takes the risk of default directly and stands or falls by his judgement. London Forfating's bad debt experience runs typically at a minimal 0.1 per cent of assets.

In its first eight months of trading, London Forfating made profits of almost £2 million. Analysts say this year £16 million before tax is probable. Advisers to the issue, J Henry Schroder Wagg and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, are finalizing prospectus details although there are few precedents for pricing. The founders are retaining all their shares.

Reserves rise limited to \$38m

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Britain's official reserves rose by just \$38 million (£21.46 million) last month, well below City expectations. The negligible rise, taken in conjunction with Monday's half-point increase in base rates, showed that there has been a marked easing of upward pressure on sterling this year.

Analysts had expected the reserves to rise by \$500 million to \$600 million, after reported intervention by the Bank in support of the dollar last month.

The figures suggest that such intervention was very modest, or that it was balanced by support for the pound later in the month, as sterling fell several pence below the unofficial DM3 ceiling. The pound closed at DM2.977.

The Prime Minister defended Monday's rise in base rates in the House of Commons. "The half per cent increase in interest rates was taken because we are determined to keep inflation down," she said.

"The rise in base rates would have been puzzling if we had had a large increase in the reserves today," said Mr Mike Osborne, the chief economist at Kleinwort Greaveson, the securities house.

Mr Steven Bell, the chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, said the Bank may not have intervened in support of the dollar early last month, because of the Chancellor's frustration with the US authorities for not raising interest rates.

The reserves stood at \$43,093 million (£24,346 million) at the end of last month, an actual fall of \$1,233 million compared with their level of \$44,326 million (£23,490 million) at the end of December.

There were accruals of borrowing under the exchange cover scheme of \$93 million, repayments of such borrowing of \$338 million and repayments of other public sector debt under the scheme of \$166 million.

After allowing for these and the quarterly rollover of the European Monetary Co-operation Fund swap of \$660 million, the actual fall converted to an underlying rise of \$38 million.

Last year, the reserves rose by \$22 billion, or nearly \$2 billion a month on average. This increase was concentrated in the period immediately before the June general election, and in the final quarter of the year.

Comment 25

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dolphin marks debut with rise to £1.23m

Dolphin Packaging, the plastic packaging manufacturer serving the food industry which came to the stock market last autumn, says it has looked at 24 propositions since September with a view to expansion, but for the moment has decided to "keep our powder dry for the right opportunity". In its first report as a listed company Dolphin discloses a turnover for the six months ended November 30 of £6.13 million, and a pretax profit of £1.23 million. In the comparative first half of the previous year, turnover was £4.29 million and pretax profit £679,000. The interim dividend is 1.2p.

Dolphin came to the stock market after a placing of 4.71 million shares at 106p each. Yesterday its shares were traded at 125p, an 8p rise on the day. Mr Rupert Speyer, the chairman, says that because 80 per cent of turnover goes to the food industry, which should be resilient to any downturn in the economy, the board views the outlook with confidence. The planned factory redevelopment is said to be progressing well.

Kwikform stake offer

GKN Australia, part of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds said it would bid \$27.1 million for the 37.4 per cent it does not already own in Kwikform Industries. It offered \$4.60 cash, a 70 per cent premium over the last of shares in Kwikform.

The Australian Foreign Investment Review Board has approved the bid.

Howard up to £1m

Howard Holdings, the housebuilder and plant hire group, lifted its profits from £875,000 to £1.04 million in the six months to end-October, despite a drop in turnover from £4.53 million to £3.45 million. Earnings per share rose from 2.3p to 2.7p, and the interim dividend rises to 0.5p on the enlarged share capital. The development division made the bulk of the profits.

Electrolux ahead

Electrolux, the Swedish electrical and white goods company, said it had increased 1987 profits by 18 per cent through a restructuring and rationalization of its operations following an extensive expansion programme. The company said in its preliminary annual report that the increase in sales during 1987, to Sw Kr67.2 billion (£6.3 billion) from Sw Kr53.09 billion, came mainly from its takeover of Zanussi, the Italian company and the US White Consolidated.

The company said markets for its main operations continued to show good volume trends during the fourth quarter of 1987. "There have been no definite signs of a decline in demand resulting from the developments in the international stock market during the latter part of 1987," it added. Mr Anders Scharp, the managing director, said although he was happy with the result he wanted a 15 per cent return on capital against the current 13 per cent.

Half-year rise at YRM

YRM, the architectural design company which came to the market last April, made taxable profits in the half-year to end-October of £977,000 against £725,000 the previous first half. Turnover rose to £6.5 million from £4.5 million and the interim dividend was 1p. All divisions contributed to the strong performance and the present level of inquiry is exceptionally strong, the company said.

Settlement hopes in HK

Mr Robert Fell, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, is hoping to have an interim system for improving settlements in place within six months, he said in London. A longer-term solution to the settlement problem, possibly a depository system, could take two years. Mr Fell is having talks with the London Stock Exchange, which may lead Hong Kong a full-time expert.

NFC introduces itself to the market

The National Freight Consortium is an unusual animal. Its decision to seek a Stock Exchange listing via an introduction, rather than an offer for sale, and to insist on a two-tier voting structure in the event of a bid, highlights its differences.

The introductory method was chosen so that existing shareholders would not have to sell a chunk of their holding, or be diluted by new and non-employee shareholders. The rights issue of up to £100 million will be offered to shareholders before the flotation and will involve some dilution if not fully taken up.

The preoccupation with maintaining employee control explains the double vote for employee shareholders if there is a takeover attempt for their company. Unbalanced voting structures are usually highly undemocratic and unpopular with the Stock Exchange and investing institutions, but the NFC, 65 per cent owned by employees, does have a more convincing argument than most.

An introduction will allow the market to choose the share price level. At the last fixing date in December NFC's shares were 117.5p, showing a 13 per cent decline from the previous quarter to reflect the fall in the stock market. A more accurate market price would be at least 160p, based

on comparisons with other quoted companies in the haulage sector.

NFC expects earnings per share to grow by about 20 per cent this year, despite a rising tax charge, up to 21 per cent from 16.5 per cent last year.

Excluding any dilution from a rights issue, NFC could expect to trade on a prospective p/e of about 11½ to 12, which would give a 160p to 170p price range.

NFC's mix of business is steadily improving and operating margins inched ahead last year. Customer gains in the BRS subsidiary included Gateway, and in the distribution division the development of two warehouses for Tesco, which will probably not show up in profits until next year.

The balance sheet at the year-end showed gearing of 73 per cent, which will rise to more than 100 per cent next week when the £100 million (£57 million) Allied Van Lines acquisition is completed.

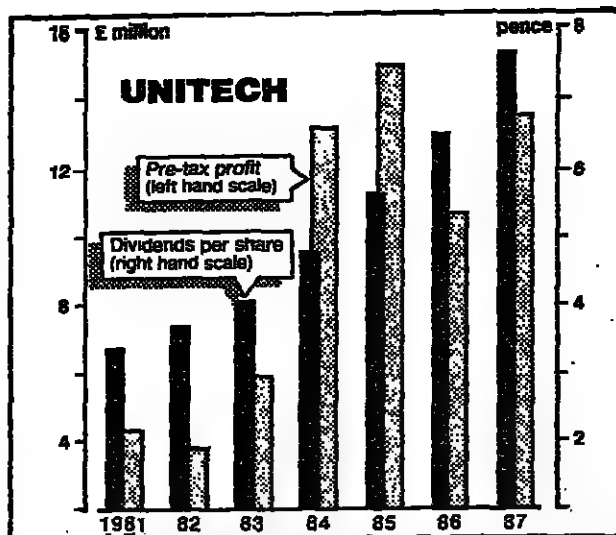
With interest cover at a record 4.6 times last year and cash flow remaining very strong, the board and the banks are comfortable with such borrowings.

NFC is continuing to look for acquisitions in the US, having reached a level of 25 per cent of profit coming from overseas well before the target date of 1989.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 2,734	Coats 878	Land Sec 702	Rowntree 843
Ad-Lyons 1,053	CU 318	Laporte 225	Royal Int 1,504
Amstar 2,327	Corn Gold 258	L&G 2,585	Sears 1,223
ASDA 1,303	Cookson 438	Lloyds 5,731	Sainsbury 518
AB Foods 37	Courtauld 1,240	Lucas 498	Scott & N 1,430
Amey 2,071	Deputy 1,388	Lucas 498	Scott & N 1,430
SA 3,428	Dea 1,018	Midwest 6,251	Sevens 9,253
BET 620	Dixons 4,133	M&S 3,278	Sidgwick 1,205
BTR 2,760	ECC 870	Manitex Int 741	Shell 541
BAT 1,571	Enterprise 328	M&P 156	Smith & N 1,748
Baz 1,762	Fairford 1,513	M&P 156	STC 1,751
Baxi 534	Fisons 3,728	Midland 1,477	Stan Chart 477
Bechem 2,493	Glen 352	Northwest 1,453	Stanton 1,854
Bell 771	SEC 7,844	Nord 2,573	Sun Alliance 118
BICC 387	Glen 352	Nim Fund 1,518	T & N 1,127
Blue Arrow 572	Globe 32	P&O 817	Tarmac 1,104
Blue Circle 1,031	Grand Mill 1,544	Pearson 552	T&A Lyle 183
Boots 1,382	GUS 'A' 341	Pittorgon 3,184	Tesco 2,788
BP 1,104	GRE 486	Plassey 587	Thorn EMI 400
Br Aero 1,833	GKN 1,208	Pudential 1,143	Trident 330
Br Airways 3,553	Gurness 3,821	Rail 1,492	THP 1,880
Br Comm 484	Hamm 'A' 216	RAI 285	Unilever 623
Br Gen 5,842	Henson 7,811	Rank 1,102	Unilever 623
Br Petrol 7,281	Hewlett 589	Redland 775	United B 1,210
Br Telecom 3,302	Hidson 1,105	Road 1,538	Unit News 519
Bristol 600	ICI 1,857	Robins 585	Westmore 700
Bunzl 1,228	ICI 1,857	RSCG 138	Whitbread 583
Burmah 721	Jaguar 1,122	RTZ 2,122	Wills Fab 589
CB&I 1,473	Laird 1,038	Royce 3,118	Woodward 1,220
Cadbury 904	Ladbroke 388	Rothmans 80	Spectra page 27

TEMPUS



Unitech

Since Black Monday anything American has been bad news, and drawing attention to a company's sensitivity to the dollar is not especially clever.

So it was no surprise to see Unitech shares fall 10 per cent to 193p when a reasonable set of half-time figures were accompanied by a warning that even without a further weakening of the dollar, second half results would show no progress on the previous year.

A hull in activity in components marketing has hit Unitech's subsidiary, Rapid Recall, particularly hard. Last year this business contributed £3 million to group pretax

profits of £13.6 million. It marked time in the first half of this year and a shortfall in the second half will lead to lower profits for the full year.

Longer term, however, Unitech is confident that this business will recover the 25 per cent annual growth rate which characterized it in the past.

Another apparently temporary problem area is the telephone manufacturing business, Rathdown. As a leading supplier to British Telecom this division has been badly hit by the failure of BT to reorder certain product lines owing to lack of customer demand.

This factor will limit the progress which can be made

from component manufacturing in the second half although the company is again confident that lost ground will be made up in due course.

Elsewhere, sound progress is being made in the power supplies and industrial controls divisions. Profits are expected to move ahead strongly this year from £2.7 million and £1.3 million to £3.2 million and £1.8 million respectively.

For the full year, group pretax profits are unlikely to exceed £14.5 million, giving earnings per share of 20p.

The shares are selling on a 15 per cent discount to the market, but are unlikely to close the gap until the currency outlook improves.

Dixons Group

The logic behind Dixons' move for Wigfals is blindingly simple. Dixons knows it can make money whenever it opens shops, and with Wigfals, it gets 300,000 sq ft of space, a 10 per cent increase in its British total, all in one go. Its £16 million cash offer is also designed to squeeze out some potentially troublesome competition in the shape of Bennett & Fountain, whose acquisitive tactics have proved successful in the south and east of England.

Bennett & Fountain, now the underbidder, believes that it can survive alongside Dixons by offering choice through quality branded products to compete with Dixons' own brands. But after its disastrous

performance last year, Dixons cannot afford to let it try.

The sad fact about Wigfals is that it was never able to compete successfully with the big discounters. So much so, that Mr John Richards, the store analyst at Wood Mackenzie, reckons that Wigfals' sales per sq ft are currently about £200. If Dixons succeeds in buying Wigfals, and changes the store formats to Dixons or Currys, he forecasts that sales will rapidly rise to nearer £700 per sq ft, high enough to give Dixons a good profit over its financing costs.

The question now facing shareholders is whether to accept the Dixons bid or to wait for Bennett & Fountain to come up with an even better offer. Given the precedent of Barker & Dobson's bid for Dec, Bennett will be undaunted by the need to gear up on its £15 million balance sheet, despite its current borrowings of £6.5 million at the last balance sheet date.

However if the Dixons motive is to keep the competition out, then it could be worth its while to pay up to do so. When Wigfals offered itself to Dixons a year ago it was rejected. Now that a potentially dangerous competitor wants it, Dixons interest has become intense.

Such rivalry is all to the benefit of the shareholders, who should sit tight until Bennett & Fountain decides what to do next.

STOCK MARKET

BAT poised to lift offer for Farmers after Wall St flurry

By Michael Clark

It looks as though BAT Industries is getting ready to increase its proposed \$4.2 billion (£2.37 billion) offer for Farmers Group, America's seventh biggest property and casualty insurance group.

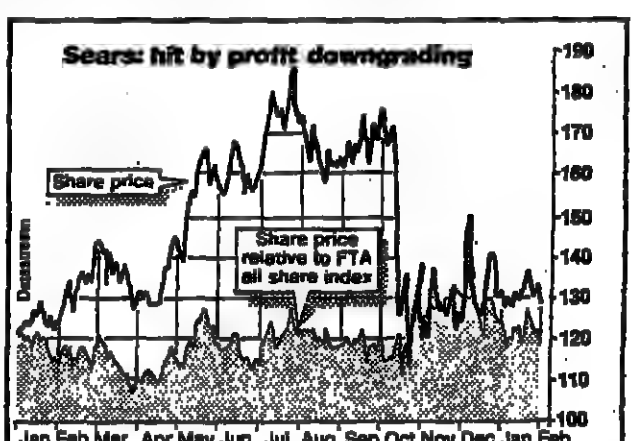
Sensing that a higher bid was on the way, investors on Wall Street chased the Farmers' share price above the \$60 a share for the first time since BAT indicated it wanted to bid. In early trade the price climbed \$2 to \$60.75 amid talk that BAT was prepared to make a revised offer of between \$65 and \$70 a share.

The flurry in the share price coincided with Los Angeles-based Farmers' first meeting with New York investment analysts who came away impressed. The meeting has been described as a "significant event" by sources close to Farmers.

Last week Farmers rejected BAT's proposals as "inadequate." BAT reacted with dismay and urged the Farmers' board to meet for talks aimed at smoothing out any disagreements between the two sides. BAT wants to hold on to the Farmers' management and would clearly like the bid terms to be agreed by both sides. BAT closed unchanged at 439p as almost 2 million shares were traded.

The rest of the equity market, still reeling from the shock of Monday's 10 per cent rise in base rates to 9 per cent, spent another lacklustre day. Share prices made cautious start and tried to go better helped by the appearance of a few cheap buyers in thin conditions. But the rally soon ran out of steam with news that a ¼ percentage point cut in US prime rates, which also prompted a dull start to trading on Wall Street, doing nothing to soothe investors' ruffled nerves.

Turnover remained at a low



ebb with only 353.2 million shares traded. The FT-SE 100 share index was 7.6 up at its best levels of the day but closed a net 2.5 down at 1,774.4 while the narrower FT index of 30 shares lost an early 4.0 to finish 3.0 down at 1,420.1.

Government securities made another shaky start in the wake of the move toward dearer money with losses

Heavy buying again pushed Aris Europe, the car rental group listed off its US parent a couple of years, another 12p to 303p yesterday - for a two-day lead of 18p. Dealers are clearly hoping for some good news soon. One broker is about to publish a review of the company and several meetings with New York investment analysts have been pencilled in.

stretching to £7 at the longer end. Prices later rallied closing with scattered gains of ¼ despite the disappointing foreign reserves figures which showed a rise of only 3.8 million last month.

Sears, the Selfridges stores group to William Hill betting office chain, which recently bought Freemans, the mail order group, was an early feature sliding 4½p to 125p on news that yet another leading broker had trimmed its profits forecast from £238 million to £232 million.

News of the downgrading was the signal for a number of fund managers to start selling

the shares with almost 10 million changing hands. Last week another leading securities house trimmed its profit estimate by £5 million to £235 million.

The Sears share price has lost most of its speculative froth following the sale by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, of his 8 per cent stake in the wake of the stock market crash. Just

Buyers came in for Lloyds Bank, which is regarded as one of the most vulnerable to increased provisions for bad debts, and chased the price 11p higher to 259p. Small gains were also seen in National Westminster Bank 5p to 602p and Barclays Bank 4p to 489p although Midland Bank, the subject of several "buy" circulars in the past few days, held steady at 418p.

The life assurance companies were a dull market worried by the spread of Aids and what it might cost them. The Government has told actuaries for the life companies to take into account the effect of Aids in the valuation of their liabilities as from the end of last year.

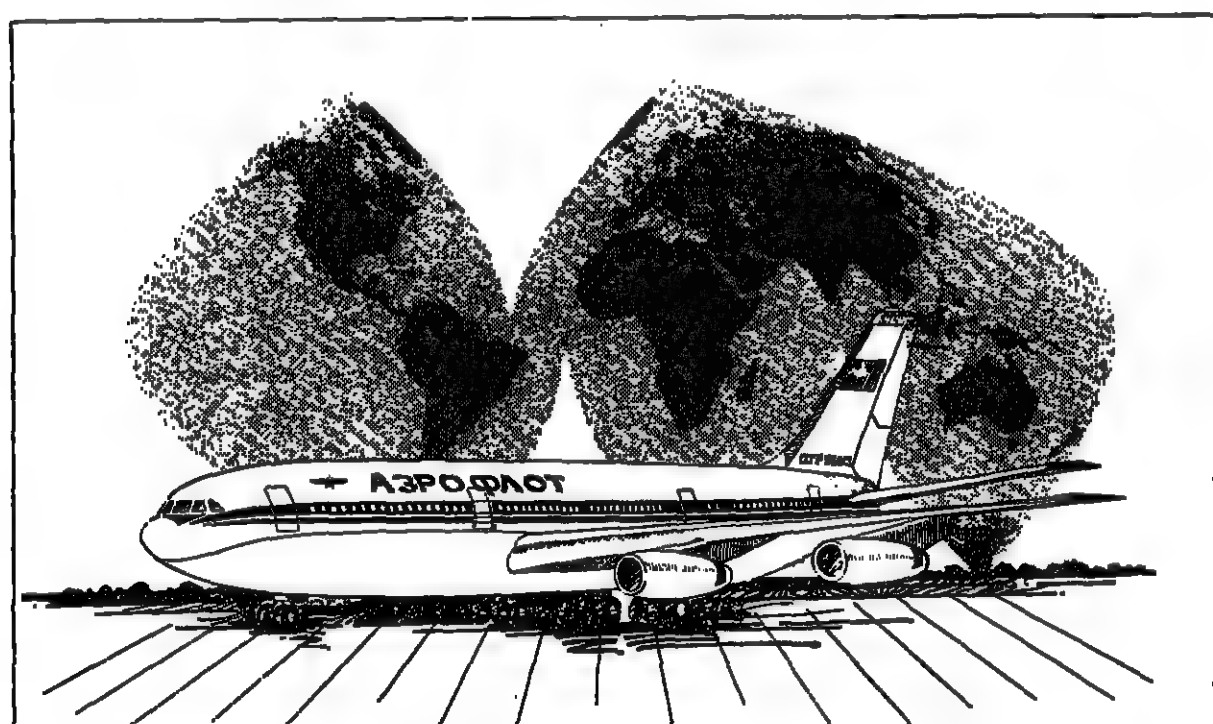
Some analysts claim that Aids has cost the companies £1.4 billion, so far, but that figure is expected to grow to £2.5 billion by 1995. Falls were seen in Abbey Life 9p to 256p, Legal & General 13.5p to 274p, London & Manchester 7p to 298p, Prudential 5p to 843p, Pearl Group 2p to 443p and Sun Life 5p to £10.13.

Mr Mohammed Al-Fayed, owner of the House of Fraser, the Harrods store group, has been linked to Sears. It is claimed he is interested in bidding for Selfridges.

Elsewhere in stores, Laura Ashley, the wallpaper and soft furnishings group, lost 4p to 118p still reeling from a brokers' downgrading.

Wood Mac is also said to have trimmed its Allied-Lyons profit estimate by £30 million to £430 million. Allied slipped 2p to 343p.

Magnet, the D-I-Y and furniture retailer, was a feature in after-hours trading



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АЭРОФЛОТ
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New drive urged on debt issue

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has called for a new effort to solve the problems of heavy indebtedness of the low-income developing countries.

Mr Joseph Wheeler, the chairman of the Development Assistance Committee, says in the annual OECD report, *Development Co-operation*, that the problems of the low-income countries are the biggest immediate challenge and amount to a "crisis." Practical solutions need to be found before the OECD countries can turn their attention back to longer-term development issues.

The problems of the very poor countries have already attracted a number of official proposals, including those from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, who has put forward an agenda containing the writing-off of official bilateral debts and reductions in interest rates.

£4.2m Cullens cash call

By Cliff Feltham

Cullens, the loss-making chain of convenience stores, is being bailed out of trouble by Mr Philip Kaye, the entrepreneur who created the Garfunkels Restaurants group.

Mr Kaye and the Belhaven brewing group which acquired Garfunkels for £100 million last year are backing a £4.2 million rights issue by Cullens.

The deal will leave Mr Kaye and Belhaven owning a 26 per

cent slice of the Cullens business.

Last night Mr Peter Matthews, the Cullens chairman, said: "We need the sort of help they can provide. There is nothing to stop them bidding for the rest if they wish but as far as we know there are no plans for that at the moment."

Mr Kaye - who built up the Golden Egg chain and then City Hotels before launching Garfunkels - said: "Cullens' administration has been top

heavy and they have tried to move ahead too fast. The shops will provide an outlet in the South for Belhaven beers."

Mr Kaye and Belhaven are subscribing for £3 million of shares at 55p each. The rest of the cash is being raised from existing shareholders.

Cullens says it is expecting to chalk up further losses in the second half of the year following losses of £2.6 million after exceptional costs of £1 million.

Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 2nd February 1988, its Base Rate was increased from 8½% to 9% p.a.

Allied Irish Bank

Head Office - Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

Siemens hopes for increase in orders despite setbacks

Munich (Reuters) — Siemens said it hoped to increase turnover and incoming orders in the 1987-88 year to end-September, despite the worsening business climate since October's share crash and the drop in the dollar.

"In talking about the current year and the near future, there are some grey tones," Herr Karlheinz Kaske, the management board chairman, said. "But there is no ground for pessimism."

Siemens said its group net profit in the first 1987-88 quarter to end-December fell to DM285 million (£95.7 million) from a previous DM296 million. But group turnover rose to DM11.2 billion from DM10.8 billion.

Herr Kaske gave no specific profit forecast for the current year but said earnings would be influenced by the dollar's course. As reported, Siemens's 1986-87 group net profit fell to DM1.28 billion from a previous DM1.47 billion.

Herr Kaske said 1987-88 incoming orders should rise to DM52 billion or DM53 billion from DM50.4 billion in 1986-87. Group turnover is expected to jump to DM58 billion or DM59 billion from DM51.4 billion, mainly because of the booking of two nuclear power plants.

"Despite the not-so-friendly business climate, Siemens's development so far in the current year is more or less satisfactory," he said.

First quarter incoming orders totalled DM13.5 billion, unchanged from the year-ago period, Herr Kaske said. Domestic orders fell to DM5.7 billion from DM6.3 billion but foreign orders rose to DM7.8 billion from DM7.2 billion.

He said the development of domestic orders in the current year would be influenced by the weaker business climate and greater competition from dollar-denominated imports.

First quarter group turnover rose to DM11.2 billion from a previous DM10.8 billion. Domestic turnover rose to DM5.2 billion while foreign turnover rose to DM5.9 billion from DM5.6 billion.

Herr Kaske said uncertainty over the dollar's progress made it impossible to forecast Siemens's 1987-88 profits.

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Longcroft's tenacity may not be enough to save Tricentrol

By Carol Ferguson

Mr James Longcroft, Tricentrol's chief executive, is nothing if not tenacious. His unrelenting efforts to maintain the oil group's independence took him to America yesterday — yet again. This time he is not visiting his loan negotiators: he flew to California to visit Mr Lod Cook, president of Atlantic Richfield (ARCO), now the proud possessor of 14.6 per cent of Tricentrol's share capital picked up in a raid last week.

As the City waits expectantly for the US oil group to deliver the knockout bid which will seal Tricentrol's fate, Mr Longcroft will be uncomfortably aware that the lives of all Tricentrol's employees — but most particularly his own — will be profoundly affected if the company disappears into the ownership of US "big oil".

Mr Longcroft has been part of the independent oil scene since the late 1950s. Indeed, the Longcrofts have had a dynastic association with Tricentrol since 1934, when James's great-uncle, known as "RC" Longcroft, rescued what was then called Trinidad Central Oilfields from the near-certain liquidation during the recession of the 1930s.

The company, which had gained a quotation on the London Stock Exchange in 1917, made a respectable living out of oil production in Trinidad for 41 years, despite the island's reputation as "the geologists' graveyard".

Mr Longcroft has been on the board of Tricentrol since 1962, and chairman since 1979. Now in his late 50s, he is showing no signs of wishing to retire. Indeed, he and two of his fellow directors signed new service contracts last October. His services are supplied under a new five-year contract with the company named



Battling for independence: James Longcroft, chairman of Tricentrol

Tourneval Limited — named after his chalet in Gstaad, where he and his family live in tax exile — at an annual fee of SwFr 547,274.88 (£225,200).

Despite having long-term service contracts, the likelihood of directors being able to obtain full compensation in the event of a takeover is small. Under British law, there is an "obligation to mitigate the terms of employment" — that is, to find another job.

Not that Tricentrol's chairman will be destitute. Tricentrol still pays a 2.5 per cent overriding royalty on all production from Thistle and its satellite fields to the Bermuda-based Opman International, originally a Longcroft family company.

The years of peak production from Thistle coincided with a strongly rising oil price and a strong dollar, a combination which swelled Opman's receipts from Tricentrol to £1.39 million in 1980. At that time, a Tricentrol filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission estimated that at the peak of Thistle production, Opman's annual royalty, less its share of Petroleum Revenue Tax, would be at the rate of "approximately £1.7 million".

In the event, Thistle never fulfilled its promise. It peaked at just 125,000 barrels a day in 1982, and the Opman royalty, probably never exceeded £1.25 million. The oilfield is now in long-term decline, the

oil price has sunk to \$16 a barrel (£9) and the annual value of the royalty is now believed to have fallen to below £300,000.

If he cannot keep Tricentrol's independence, Mr Longcroft is clearly still hopeful of salvaging at least some of the assets which he can continue to run as a separate company. Analysts speculate that he is, even now, trying to horse-trade a package of mature production — Thistle, Don, Deveron and Buchan — and some exploration acreage in exchange for his board's recommendation of an offer from ARCO.

Such a deal could be done in two ways. Either ARCO takes over the whole of Tricentrol and a new Tricentrol is

formed and financed to buy out the relevant assets; or the shareholders could be offered a lower cash offer plus one share in the new Tricentrol.

Many analysts think ARCO will go through the motions with Mr Longcroft, but will, in the end, pitch its offer high enough to be able to dispense with a board recommendation. One analyst said that if ARCO offered 200p, shareholders might be killed in the rush to accept.

Certainly, ARCO can afford to be generous. It is likely that the estimated £135 million or so profits from delivering its British shares to British Petroleum can be rolled into a purchase of Tricentrol tax-free. And the more generous ARCO can afford to be, the less room for manoeuvre by the Tricentrol chairman.

At present, the only bid on the table is Elf's 160p-a-share offer, which looks rather forlorn now that Tricentrol's share price has soared to 196p.

Mr Longcroft has had a turbulent relationship with City institutions, founded in a lack of mutual trust. The City found it difficult to come to terms with the Opman arrangements, despite their having been approved by the shareholders. His shareholders also find it hard to forgive his move into tax exile while he remains chairman and chief executive of their company.

He in turn berates the City for its "short-term" outlook and its failure on occasion to give wholehearted support to his capital-raising efforts. For all its financial difficulties, Tricentrol had the curious knack of being able to extricate itself from all sorts of difficult situations. However, it looks as if it will not be able to escape its fate this time, and the independent oil sector will lose one of its more colourful members.

APPOINTMENTS

Deputy chief for BPB Industries

BPB Industries: Mr A. Cragdon has become vice-chairman, with Mr A. Brooks as group managing director with responsibility for all of the group's gypsum interests and Mr C. J. Bushell as group managing director, paper and non-gypsum building products.

Hogg Robinson: Mr John Bryan joins the board.

Kode International: Mr Alan Brooker has been made a non-executive director and deputy chairman, with Mr Bob King and Mr Stephen Day as executive directors.

Lancar: Mr Chaim Gidomani has been elected chairman, succeeding Mr Eric Burns. BEAMA: Viscount Weir has been named deputy president.

Tristar Data Systems: Mr Ray Farrenkoth becomes managing director, succeeding Mr John Engelbrecht.

IEI Northern: Mr John Dickinson has been made managing director.

Sarsota Automation: Mr Tom Buckle becomes managing director, succeeding Mr Ian McCue to assume responsibility for developing overseas activities.

DY Davies: Mr N. J. Lockyer joins the board.

Austin Reed Group: Mr Peter Sheffield has been made a director of Austin Reed International. Mr Robin McHugh, Mr Peter Myatt and Miss Ghislaine Pariset join the board of Stephens Brothers.

Sturges de Zoete Wedd: Mr Terry Tisdall becomes a director.

Higgs and Hill Buildings: Mr DA Lawson and Mr E. Weaver have been made divisional directors.

Alexander Stenhouse: Mr Ronald Forrest joins the operations board and the board of Global Retail Insurance Broking.

US debt write-off for conservation

San José (Reuters) — Two American regional banks have agreed in principle to write off \$1.35 million (£766,000) in debts owed by Costa Rica and give the money to conservation projects in the country, Señor Alvaro Umana, the natural resources minister, said.

Fleet National Bank of Rhode Island and Philadelphia National Bank become the first to take advantage of a recent US tax ruling which allows banks to deduct losses if the funds are channelled into conservation projects.

This will be the first time debt has been donated outright for conservation, Señor Umana told a news conference. The Costa Rican government has enacted legislation which allows for the debt to be purchased at 25 per cent on the secondary market by conservation groups. It will then provide the groups with local currency worth up to 75 per cent of the face value.

But Señor Umana, who was taking part in the 17th assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, said he hoped outright donations would spread. Fleet is donating \$254,000 and Philadelphia National \$1.1 million.

He said all Costa Rica's US bank creditors had been relaxed to request co-operation. "This is their chance to become part of a deeper solution to the debt problem," he said.

Señor Umana said he hoped government representatives from European countries at the conference would be encouraged to take up the idea with creditor banks.

He said debt-for-conservation swaps would never be a total solution to Costa Rica's \$4 billion debt problems, but they were a positive contribution to a global priority — preserving the environment.

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WALL STREET

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 25. Dealings end February 5. Contango day February 8. Settlement day February 15.
 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or exceeds this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Bowthorpe	Electronics	
2	Tinsell	Electronics	
3	Ward White	Drapery Stores	
4	Marchoise (aa)	Drapery Stores	
5	Freedy (Alfred)	Drapery Stores	
6	Beckley (aa)	Drapery Stores	
7	Kwik-Fit	Motor, Aircraft	
8	Macdonald	Building Roads	
9	Macro 4	Electronics S-Z	
10	Edison	Electronics E-K	
11	Baker Harris	Property	
12	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
13	Prognosis	Property	
14	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	
15	Isstock Johnson	Building Roads	
16	Freewick Higgs	Industrials L-R	
17	IMI (aa)	Industrials E-K	
18	Mark Spencer (aa)	Drapery Stores	
19	Britannia Security	Electronics	
20	Malina	Industrials E-K	
21	Kode	Electronics	
22	Marling	Industrials L-R	
23	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
24	Portals	Industrials L-R	
25	Laing (J)	Building Roads	
26	Rank Org (aa)	Industrials L-R	
27	Hopkinson	Industrials E-K	
28	Maxwell Comm (aa)	Newspapers, Pub	
29	Norcor	Industrials L-R	
30	Bilton (P)	Property	
31	New Cavendish	Property	
32	Leanne	Property	
33	Scotlar Eng	Paper, Print, Adv	
34	Quirk (HU)	Motor, Aircraft	
35	Low & Bear	Industrials L-R	
36	Ladbrooke (aa)	Hotel, Caterers	
37	Rockitt (Colum)	Industrials L-R	
38	Electrocomponents	Electronics	
39	BOC (aa)	Industrials A-D	
40	Spear (JW)	Industrials S-Z	
41	Aerospac Eng	Industrials A-D	
42	Nobo Gp	Industrials L-R	
43	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1987 High Low Close Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987 High	1987 Low	1987 Close	Price	Change	%
100	95	98	100	3	3.0
105	100	102	105	2	1.9
110	105	108	110	3	2.7
115	110	112	115	3	2.6
120	115	118	120	3	2.5
125	120	122	125	3	2.4
130	125	128	130	3	2.3
135	130	132	135	3	2.2
140	135	138	140	3	2.1
145	140	142	145	3	2.0
150	145	148	150	3	1.9
155	150	152	155	3	1.8
160	155	158	160	3	1.7
165	160	162	165	3	1.6
170	165	168	170	3	1.5
175	170	172	175	3	1.4
180	175	178	180	3	1.3
185	180	182	185	3	1.2
190	185	188	190	3	1.1
195	190	192	195	3	1.0
200	195	198	200	3	0.9
205	200	202	205	3	0.8
210	205	208	210	3	0.7
215	210	212	215	3	0.6
220	215	218	220	3	0.5
225	220	222	225	3	0.4
230	225	228	230	3	0.3
235	230	232	235	3	0.2
240	235	238	240	3	0.1
245	240	242	245	3	0.0
250	245	248	250	3	0.0
255	250	252	255	3	0.0
260	255	258	260	3	0.0
265	260	262	265	3	0.0
270	265	268	270	3	0.0
275	270	272	275	3	0.0
280	275	278	280	3	0.0
285	280	282	285	3	0.0
290	285	288	290	3	0.0
295	290	292	295	3	0.0
300	295	298	300	3	0.0
305	300	302	305	3	0.0
310	305	308	310	3	0.0
315	310	312	315	3	0.0
320	315	318	320	3	0.0
325	320	322	325	3	0.0
330	325	328	330	3	0.0
335	330	332	335	3	0.0
340	335	338	340	3	0.0
345	340	342	345	3	0.0
350	345	348	350	3	0.0
355	350	352	355	3	0.0
360	355	358	360	3	0.0
365	360	362	365	3	0.0
370	365	368	370	3	0.0
375	370	372	375	3	0.0
380	375	378	380	3	0.0
385	380	382	385	3	0.0
390	385	388	390	3	0.0
395	390	392	395	3	0.0
400	395	398	400	3	0.0
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410	405	408	410	3	0.0
415	410	412	415	3	0.0
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425	420	422	425	3	0.0
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435	430	432	435	3	0.0
440	435	438	440	3	0.0
445	440	442	445	3	0.0
450	445	448	450	3	0.0
455	450	452	455	3	0.0
460	455	458	460	3	0.0
465	460	462	465	3	0.0
470	465	468	470	3	0.0
475	470	472	475	3	0.0
480	475	478	480	3	0.0
485	480	482	485	3	0.0
490	485	488	490	3	0.0
495	490	492	495	3	0.0
500	495	498	500	3	0.0
505	500	502	505	3	0.0
510	505	508	510	3	0.0
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520	515	518	520	3	0.0
525	520	522	525	3	0.0
530	525	528	530	3	0.0
535	530	532	535	3	0.0
540	535	538	540	3	0.0
545	540	542	545	3	0.0
550	545	548	550	3	0.0
555	550	552	555	3	0.0
560	555	558	560	3	0.0
565	560	562	565	3	0.0
570	565	568	570	3	0.0
575	570	572	575	3	0.0
580	575	578	580	3	0.0
585	580	582	585	3	0.0
590	585	588	590	3	0.0
595	590	592	595	3	0.0
600	595	598	600	3	0.0
605	600	602	605	3	0.0
610	605	608	610	3	0.0
615	610	612	615	3	0.0
620	615	618	620	3	0.0
625	620	622	625	3	0.0
630	625	628	630	3	0.0
635	630	632	635	3	0.0
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645	640	642	645	3	0.0
650	645	648	650	3	0.0
655	650	652	655	3	0.0
660	655	658	660	3	0.0
665	660	662	665	3	0.0
670	665	668	670	3	0.0
675	670	672	675	3	0.0
680	675	678	680	3	0.0
685	680	682	685	3	0.0
690	685	688	690	3	0.0
695	690	692	695	3	0.0
700	695	698	700	3	0.0
705	700	702	705	3	0.0
710	705	708	710	3	0.0
715	710	712	715	3	0.0
720	715	718	720	3	0.0
725	720	722	725	3	0.0
730	725	728	730	3	0.0
735	730	732	735	3	0.0
740	735	738	740	3	0.0
745	740	742	745	3	0.0
750	745	748	750	3	0.0
755	750	752	755	3	0.0
760	755	758	760	3	0.0
765	760	762	765	3	0.0
770	765	768	770	3	0.0
775	770	772	775	3	0.0
780	775	778	780	3	0.0
785	780	782	785	3	0.0
790	785	788	790	3	0.0
795	790	792	795	3	0.0
800	795	798	800	3	0.0
805	800	802	805	3	0.0
810	805	808	810	3	0.0
815	810	812	815	3	0.0
820	815	818	820	3	0.0
825	820	822	825	3	0.0
830	825	828	830	3	0.0
835	830	832	835	3	0.0
840	835	838	840	3	0.0
845	840	842	845	3	0.0
850	845	848	850	3	0.0
855	850	852	855	3	0.0
860	855	858	860	3	0.0
865	860	862	865	3	0.0
870	865	868	870	3	0.0
875	870	872	875	3	0.0
880	875	878	880	3	0.0
885	880	882	885	3	0.0
890	885	888	890	3	0.0
895	890	892	895	3	0.0
900	895	898	900	3	0.0
905	900	902	905	3	0.0
910	905	908	910	3	0.0
915	910	912	915	3	0.0
920	915	918	920	3	0.0
925	920	922	925	3	0.0
930	925	928	930	3	0.0
935	930	932	935	3	0.0
940	935	938	940	3	0.0
945	940	942	945	3	0.0
950	945	948	950	3	0.0
955	950	952	955	3	0.0
960	955	958	960	3	0.0
965	960	962	965	3	0.0
970	965	968	970	3	0.0
975	970	972	975	3	0.0
980	975	978	980	3	0.0
985	980	982	985	3	0.0
990	985	988	990	3	0.0
995	990	992	995	3	0.0
1000	995	998	1000	3	0.0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987 High	10%	1988	10%		9.8	0.885
1987 Low	10%	1988	10%		9.8	0.885
1987 Fund	10%	1988	10%		9.8	0.885
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1987 Fund</						

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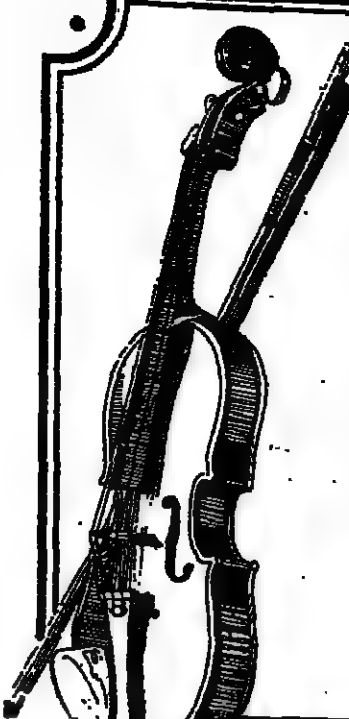
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292	122	32	44	24	59	153	83	109	112
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CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

Nimbus Records



Sales & Marketing Manager
Classical Recordings

Herefordshire c.£25,000 plus car

As well as being the largest UK manufacturer of compact discs, Nimbus Records has a growing international reputation for recordings on its own label of superb classical works by the very best artists.

The Sales and Marketing Manager's task is to develop the label, by providing all the necessary marketing skills, and by dealing with agents and distributors in a sales role.

We are looking for a classical music enthusiast, who has a well developed knowledge of the industry, and a strong sales and marketing background; we need a persistent, creative enthusiast, who will put the label where it should be - on the shelves of every record shop in Europe.

Terms and conditions are excellent, the working environment very enjoyable, and the location is superb.

Please send CV or telephone for an application form from: S. Gorman, Company Secretary, Nimbus Records, Wyastone Leys, Monmouth NP5 3SR (0600-890682)

BOYS' CLUBS

RESOURCES OFFICER

NABC seeks to appoint a full-time Resources Officer as part of a growing marketing team based at its centrally placed London headquarters.

Reporting to the Marketing Director, the Resources Officer's primary role will be to service a high powered committee of businessmen responsible for approaching commercial organisations for the crucial income of subscriptions, donations and covenants. His/her secondary role will be to assist the Marketing Director with research on a variety of projects, including Payroll Giving.

The post requires sound administrative and organisational skills as well as an innovative spirit in finding new ways to approach the commercial sector, with knowledge and experience of this sector a definite advantage. The successful applicant is likely to be an older person capable of fitting quickly into an increasingly forward-looking charity.

A salary commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate, and within the Association's salary structure, is offered. Further details and application forms may be obtained from David Hutchinson, Director of Services and Development, at:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS
369 KENNINGTON LANE
LONDON SE11 5QY.

Sunday
MAGAZINE
DESIGNER

We are looking for a talented and enthusiastic magazine designer with at least one year's experience. The ability to work hard and learn quickly is essential.

STUDENTS

If you've recently left college and would like to work freelance for the magazine, as a junior in the Art Department, write and tell us why.

Write to: Colin Jenkins, Editor, Sunday Magazine, 10 Dyle Street, London W1P 7LS

TEXTILE DESIGN ASSISTANT

Colefax and Fowler

Our Design Director is in need of another Assistant and to join his busy studio in Mayfair. Previous experience working in this capacity is essential, ideally with printed furnishing fabrics, plus a keen interest in the work of our company. Salary based upon experience. 4 weeks holiday p.a. and staff discounts.

Please write with cv to:

Penny Reed
COLEFAX AND FOWLER LIMITED
39 Brook Street, London W1Y 2JE

SALES IN TENERIFE

Experienced sales persons required immediately in Tenerife to sell freehold property. Our project, one of the most exciting in Europe is currently undergoing major expansion. Exceptional opportunities for self-motivated negotiator to realise high earning potential.

Please reply to:
BOX 630

RECRUITMENT

SALES PROFESSIONALS

We are a multi-disciplined sales consultancy specialising in the placement of quality staff in and around London and the Home Counties.

If you are currently aged between 21 and 35 years and have the Road Sales experience in any field, we can help you with your next career move.

For a totally professional and confidential discussion please telephone:

01 686 2842

The Recruitment Partnership
London Bristol Manchester Birmingham

HAMMICK'S WHOLESALE GENERAL MANAGER

HAMMICK'S, a division of JOHN MENZIES (GB) LTD., is going places in 1988 with a major investment programme and rapid expansion in Wholesale book supply. The Wholesale division provides a unique service, based on the most advanced systems in the trade, to the independent, chain and non-traditional bookseller. We require a Sales and Marketing professional with a sound record of achievement in a senior Board/management position. Experience of book publishing or bookselling would be an advantage.

As Wholesale General Manager you will control all sales, marketing, distribution and data processing activities from our 30,000 sq.ft purpose-built facility near the M3 at Frimley in Surrey. This is an executive board appointment, reporting to the Assistant Managing Director and responsible, through a staff of seventy for the efficiency of the service to over 700 Wholesale customers. An excellent senior management team is in place to capitalise on the exciting potential of this division.

You will need to be an excellent communicator who, as a member of the Company and Divisional Boards, can make an immediate contribution to our strategic planning and major expansion requirements. In return you will have the satisfaction of working for a Company which is success orientated and which values and rewards the contribution of its employees.

An appropriate salary, recognising the seniority of this position, is offered, as is company car, free BUPA and other benefits appropriate to a large group. Relocation expenses will be available if applicable.

Please send full C.V. (in strictest confidence) to **Stephen Mansfield, Assistant Managing Director, Hammick's, Albany Park, Frimley, Surrey GU15 2PW (Tel: 0276 686286).**

Laura Ashley

Decorator Collection
Laura Ashley Sales Representative.

Applications are invited for the position of sales representative within the London area for the Decorator Collection, the exclusive, interior design range of Laura Ashley. Applicants should have experience with fabric and wallpaper sales and an understanding of interior design would be an advantage. An attractive salary and car will be offered to the successful candidate together with other Company benefits.

Please apply in writing with a full c.v. to:
Susan Field, Laura Ashley Ltd.,
Braywick House, Braywick Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1DW.

GRANTA

has expanded its circulation by 250% in the last twelve months, established a major presence in the United States through a new collaboration with the *New York Review of Books*, and now requires an

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

responsible for sales in the United Kingdom and the United States. Salary negotiable for a position of unique opportunity and potential.

Please send cv (with details of current salary) to:
Aileen Omerod, Granta, 44a Hobson Street, Cambridge CB1 1NL.

Sunday
MAGAZINE

ASSISTANT ART EDITOR

We are looking for a talented and enthusiastic magazine designer with at least two years' experience. The ability to work under pressure with speed and initiative is essential.

Write to: Colin Jenkins, Editor, Sunday Magazine, 10 Dyle Street, London W1P 7LS

MARKETING MANAGER

We are a well established firm of specialist financial consultants. As part of our successful expansion programme we are now establishing a consumer finance division. We require a marketing manager (Director Designate) to develop and to head this division. The successful applicant must be self motivated and should have experience in a marketing/sales position. Experience in the Financial or Personal/Consumer Finance industry would be an advantage, but is not essential. He/She should be able to establish a corporate plan and to ensure its successful implementation. The position will offer the right applicant an exciting and rewarding career opportunity.

Please reply to our consultant
Neville A. Joseph, FCA
Marlow House, Hale Road, Wendover, Bucks

BROADLANDS

THE MAGNIFICENT STately HOME OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN

requires a

MARKETING AND COMMERCIAL MANAGER

to promote the house visitor business and associated enterprises to the Travel Trade, Press and public at home and overseas. This interesting and challenging position offers the unique experience of working in one of Britain's finest stately homes and the opportunity to assist in the development of one of the South's best known tourist attractions. A person with flair, drive and initiative is sought, preferably with experience in the tourist industry and with a sound knowledge of marketing techniques. A competitive salary is offered and accommodation may be available.

Apply in writing as soon as possible with full c.v. to:
The Estates Manager, Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 9ZD.

Marketing Manager

London c.£35,000 + car

Grant Thornton is a progressive and ambitious firm of chartered accountants, consultants and financial advisers, with over 50 locations in the UK and employing 3,000 staff.

A marketing manager is sought who can advise on corporate marketing strategy, both in terms of products and industry sectors, and assist in developing an integrated plan for the firm as a whole to follow.

Applicants should be graduates, aged under 40, and possess considerable marketing experience, some of which must have been gained in the financial services sector. Experience of managing a small team is essential.

This post offers excellent advancement potential.

Please send concise details, including current salary and daytime telephone number, to **MJB Ping, Grant Thornton, Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP.**

Grant Thornton
Chartered Accountants
OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE 1996 BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM

WRITER

After 3-7 years in specialist agencies - or in publishing, charity, financial or business-to-business - you know your way around. Your writing skills already earn you respect, plus a reward which is adequate, if not domestic! Now you are beginning to look for something rather more money - more challenging. A job which you can be involved not just in words, but in the thinking and planning too. Our clients expect us to be more than writers and designers; our creativity - which is highly regarded - is backed by marketing and thinking of a high calibre. It has to be. National clients wouldn't come to Cirencester if we weren't sharper and brighter than our London competitors! We open the door to new business with our direct marketing skills - so letters and off-the-page ads mustn't frighten you. But we then develop accounts to embrace the above-the-line, ads, a/v, sales aids, brochures, new product launches: the lot. So you have to be happy with them all - (or get good with our help!). In our business, writers have a lot of clout: what you say tends to go. The money reflects that: not less than £18,000 for starters, up to £28,000 for the right person. (Could be freelance). After a year with us, you'll command more here, or anywhere.

Write now, in the first instance, with c.v. and ideally some samples to, **Creative Director, Hamilton Wright Marketing, Chesterton Manor, 2 Watermoor Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1JN.**

HAMILTON WRIGHT

MARKETING

MEDIA & MARKETING

Who needs the broadcasters?

OPINION

Nick Radio

Next Friday, the largest ever gathering of corporate video producers and their clients will sit down at their annual awards banquet in Mayfair to celebrate the year's best in "business" video. The event is a sort of boardroom Oscars ceremony, organized by the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA).

With the explosion in ownership of video recorders, in the office as well as at home, few people have avoided coming into contact with some form of corporate video. Its uses are many and varied — sales, PR, training, staff information.

There is no question that the business is booming, and the quality of material being produced has improved considerably over the past year or two.

The amount of production going on might suggest that the business world is becoming more directly involved in the programmes it commissions. But is it?

Advertising agencies and public relations consultancies are producing more and more videos as middlemen on behalf of their clients. There is a definite trend to the slick, extended TV commercial designed to catch the imagination at the sales and marketing end of corporate video — often at a price considerably higher than industry is used to paying for its video communications. A longer standing problem in what corporate video takes from network television.

But it still has one big problem to resolve before it can really lay claim to being a mature industry. A high percentage of videos are still far too dependent on the use of formats and personalities borrowed from broadcast television. Sometimes, it's a version of a familiar current affairs series — the *Money Programme*, even *Panorama*. More often, it's the use of presenters and reporters chosen because of their familiar-

ity with an audience raised on television. Large corporations often use a well known broadcasting personality to front their internal video magazines. In many parts of the world, for instance, the BBC's Brian Redhead is almost known as "Mr BP" because he is so familiar from the oil company's quarterly video, *Pipeline*.

Broadcasters are in business as professionals and are perfectly free to sell their services where they wish, so good luck to them. On television, reporters and presenters work to strict rules of objectivity and fair play. The audience expects it and part of that kind of TV personality's fame is the trust built up with the audience. That is what corporate video producers are buying, and it is not necessarily overt. Of course, people know when they're watching a sales or a staff video, but there is an inescapable element of endorsement by that personality of whatever the message happens to be.

But surely, if the message is good enough, that kind of endorsement becomes unnecessary? Industry should stop hiding its own people. Who better to sell a new product than the design engineers? Who better to inspire the workforce than a dynamic managing director?

I used to be considered dangerous to allow a company chairman to talk straight to camera if he had no experience of appearing on television. Avoiding this often called for much imagination, diplomacy and persuasiveness on the part of a producer.

But now that we live in an age of video, it is as important for senior executives to be able to express themselves as well on video as they do on paper or around the boardroom table. Good management is not about hiding your key executives behind a plausible front man you have hired from network television.

Nick Radio is corporate video editor of Broadcast.

When *The Guardian* announced its intention of redesigning the newspaper from February 12, the response from one reader was instant. "May I be the first to say," he wrote, "that I do not like it."

Readers are notoriously averse to changes in layout which, according to Fleet Street wisdom, can cut circulation by the thousand. Both *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* have preferred to introduce substantial changes in recent years by a gradual process of stealth, and this week the *Daily Express* changed its masthead as part of its evolving design.

The Guardian's new design, which is being kept carefully out of public view, will, according to the newspaper's marketing manager, John Gordon, be as revolutionary as was its last major change of style in 1969.

The Guardian's relatively young readers are considered to be more open to change than, say, the readership of the *Telegraph*, and recently they have found a liberal alternative in *The Independent*. The advantage of

'Cosmetic changes are fine if sales are rising — not if they're falling'

the redesign is that it will draw attention to the newspaper and provide the opportunity for a major advertising promotion.

In 1969, the strategy worked. Readership went up by 20,000 in three months, and continued to rise. But this time the circumstances are different. In the late sixties, *The Guardian* was on a rising curve; now it is losing readers. It is open to question whether a change in layout but not content will be sufficient to dispel the faded ethos of the seventies still clinging stubbornly to its pages.

"Cosmetic changes without changes in the content are fine if the sales are going up," says Charles Wintour, former editor of the *Evening Standard*, "but they will not work when sales are falling."

Examination of relaunches and redesigns of national newspapers over the last 25 years appears to support this. For example, the removal of the advertisements from the front page of *The Times* in 1966 caught the public imagination only briefly. The circulation went up by 30,000 during the first month and then fell back.

The *Observer* had no better luck with its full-scale redesign in 1983, or

As *The Guardian* nears relaunch, Kate Finch examines how editorial change can save a faltering newspaper — or cut the circulation



All change: the broadsheet Mail (top left) and (top right) the pre-Murdoch Sun, the familiar Express masthead and (above) last week's version

with the revamp of its colour supplement last September. The new, square binding of the magazine has merely drawn attention to the inadequacy of the contents. The *Observer's* circulation has remained at around 750,000 through most of the last decade.

The three spectacular successes, by contrast, resulted from drastic changes not just in the look, but also in the content. *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday* were all rapidly

transformed into market leaders after being relaunched.

The metamorphosis of *The Sun* took place in 1969, following its purchase by Rupert Murdoch. Originally launched from the ashes of the *Daily Herald*, the result of considerable market research, it was intended to reflect the new technological age. But it failed to attract readers.

When it was converted into a tabloid with a racy format new to British

journalism, the circulation climbed from 800,000 to 1,500,000 within weeks.

The *Mail* was in slow decline before going tabloid in 1971. Its circulation had fallen from close to 3 million in 1960 to less than one million by 1970. When it was relaunched it benefited from being the first middle-range newspaper to abandon the broadsheet size, and from a strong and consistent new editorial direction — with, for example, the introduction of the *Female* page. Two years later the circulation had risen to 1,250,000.

Going tabloid also helped to halt the gradual loss of circulation of the *News of the World* in 1985, after which the newspaper put on half a million readers. But the tabloid format was of less benefit to the *Daily Express*, which switched size in 1977. By then the initiative was firmly with the *Mail*. Continual changes in ownership at the *Express* left the newspaper without a sense of clear direction for its content

A slow decline, and then the Mail becomes a market leader

and the overall drift downwards continued.

The relaunch of the *Mail on Sunday* followed a disastrous original launch in May, 1982, which, despite considerable market research, produced a paper judged too serious by half. Its circulation dragged at around 700,000.

Recast in the style of the *Daily Mail*, and with the addition of an imaginative magazine, the *Mail on Sunday* sold 1,250,000 on the day of its new look.

When the changes were made

May, 1986: *The Times* takes ads off front page.

February, 1986: *The Guardian* redesigned.

November, 1985: *The Sun* relaunched.

May, 1971: *Daily Mail* goes tabloid.

Jan, 1977: *Daily Express* goes tabloid.

October, 1982: *Mail on Sunday* relaunched.

October, 1983: *Observer* redesigned.

May, 1985: *News of the World* goes tabloid.

September, 1987: *Observer* colour magazine relaunched.

©Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

End of the line

How newspapers are joining the road revolution

Yesterday some 800 newspaper wholesalers received a letter from Mirror Group Newspapers giving them notice that their contracts to distribute MGN publications would end on May 1.

It was their third blow in as many months. At the start of this week News International began operating a new distribution system via 182 area franchises. This by-passes nearly 900 distributors, from giants like W.H. Smith to tiny family firms. Smith's, which applied for 80 of the new franchises but won only 14, estimates it has lost up to £45 million a year in profits.

Last week Associated Newspapers gave notice that it, too, was putting wholesale distribution of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* out to tender.

The new agreements with wholesalers have over-shadowed another far-reaching reform — the switch from rail to road, which began two years ago when News International moved to Wapping, and distributed its titles by lorry.

Road distribution is not necessarily cheaper but it is often quicker, particularly in bad weather, and more flexible.

Last year the Mirror Group followed NT's lead and switched to road, and has made "substantial" savings. The company wants to return to a mix of road and rail to save a further £1 million a month.

MGN has also been party to discussions between the wholesalers and all the newspaper publishers about setting up a joint distribution system, using trucks and trains to drop off copies at 100 "dummy sites" for wholesalers to collect from.

Whatever the decision, British Rail's days as the main vehicle for distributing newspapers seem numbered. This is a point conceded by BR, which is even offering to run a combined road/rail system.

Nick Higham

BEG APPOINTMENTS

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Reporters are required to work in the studio and on location with film, ENG or OBs, conduct interviews and compile scripts and present reports on the whole range of news stories covered by Television News and Current Affairs at home and abroad. Reporters also work overnight on rota for *Breakfast Time*, and may have to work, when required, for BBC Radio News and Current Affairs.

For further details contact Chris Cramer, News Editor on 01-743 8000 ext 1234. (Ref. 8787/7)

We are looking for Assistant Producers to work on three of our major weekly current affairs programmes — *Panorama*, *The Money Programme*, and a new politics programme to be launched in the Spring to replace *This Week Next Week*.

You will be expected to contribute both editorially and technically to the devising, preparation and production of programmes. This includes programme research, film and tape direction, and the shaping of ideas into written and visual form in accordance with the Editor's and Producer's brief.

You must be able to show evidence of achievement in journalism, a developed visual sense, and an appreciation of the technical demands of television production.

Assistant Producers are also required to work on our popular daily discussion programme *Kilroy*. You should have experience of dealing with a wide range of topical, social and political issues, and be able to demonstrate your knowledge and interest in these areas. You'll also need the ability to work under pressure, as part of a small team, to produce effective daily debates to the highest standards.

Applicants should specify for which programmes they are applying. (Ref. 8776/7)

We require Researchers to work on *Panorama* and on a completely new politics programme, to replace *This Week Next Week* in the Spring.

You should preferably have some journalistic experience, although primarily we are looking for people with real insight and interest in politics, who possess the originality to come up with new ideas and treatments for programmes, and the ability to translate ideas into effective television.

Completed application forms for Assistant Producer and Researchers posts must be returned by 17th February.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Bottle of the giants

Another foreign brewer is trying to conquer the British lager market. But, as Carys Bowen-Jones reports, it is one of the toughest advertising tasks

The latest foreign brewer to be seduced by the £9 billion beer market in this country faces one awkward hurdle: advertising.

Like all the world's major brewers, Labatt — the biggest in Canada — is chasing after business for its lager-style products. And it has put the UK high up on its shopping list. The company wants its lager — launched this week in 1,600 Greenall Whitley pubs in the North and Midlands — to be one of the country's top five national brands within five years.

The attractions of this market are undeniable: lager's estimated 45 per cent share of beer sales last year is expected to swell to between 55 and 60 per cent by the mid-1990s. But as the market is already bulging, with 300 brands, Labatt will have to fight hard to get itself noticed in the clutter of lager advertising.

It is an expensive business. Last year, brewers poured nearly £65 million into advertising their lager brands (see table). Hefty as it is, Labatt's launch budget — equivalent to £6½ million on a national basis — has to contend with spending of well



Malcolm the Mounty may get his man, but can he sell lager? Labatt's campaign leaves no room for doubt about the product's origins

over £4 million by far more established brands.

The ability of advertising to stimulate heavy demand from the outset is especially critical for a lager brand because of the short shelf life of the draught product. Heavy spending is matched by increasingly demanding creative standards, and only the wittiest, whackiest campaigns seem to have any chance of success.

"The creative standards in this market are very high indeed," says Peter Watkins, account director on Castlemaine XXXX at Saatchi & Saatchi. "The best of it is probably the best of any UK advertising."

And for the overseas brewer, in particular, the right style can be elusive. The British drinker is, it seems, acutely sensitive about the origins of his pint of lager. If the

advertising projects the wrong image of those origins, it has a pretty good chance of stifling the brand at birth.

The image-makers behind Labatt's colonial predecessors — Fosters, Castlemaine XXXX, Budweiser and Miller Lite — have already discovered that branding a lager with its national heritage can be a

MAJOR LAGER BRANDS 1987 Advertising expenditure	
	£ millions
Budweiser	1.6
Carling Black Label	1.6
Carlsberg	7.4
Castlemaine XXXX	4.0
Hofmeister	3.1
Fosters	4.8
Heineken	4.7
Miller Lite	4.8
Tennant's	7.5

Source: M.E.A.L.

minefield. Research shows America to be a shark-infested pool of conflicting images — some attractive, some repellent — while Australia generally strikes the right chord.

"Australians are seen as drinkers in the same way we are — if they think a lager's good, so will we," Watkins says. "The US falls down because Americans aren't seen as beer drinkers." The mix of Paul Hogan, wry humour and the sun-scorched outback have worked well for the Australian brands, Fosters and Castlemaine XXXX.

The American brands have had a rougher ride. Even the most discreet reference to its roots has now been obliterated from Boose Massimi Pollitt's campaign for Miller Lite, while Budweiser is desperately trying to shake off the all-American character which it imported at its

launch. Research shows America to be a shark-infested pool of conflicting images — some attractive, some repellent — while Australia generally strikes the right chord.

Abbott Mead Vickers, Labatt's agency, has taken the moose by the horns, created a character called Malcolm the Mounty, and plumped for a campaign which leaves no doubt about the lager's home. The agency is staking its faith in its research: "There are positive things about Canada which advertising needs to trigger," says Angus Fear, the account director. "People don't think about Canada until you prompt them. Then they think of positive stereotypes, like the great outdoors, log cabins, mooses."

But rival agencies who have researched the pride and prejudices of the British lager-drinker tend to see the approach as high risk, questioning the ability of advertising to inject cachet into a country which, for most people, represents maple leaves, Margaret Trudeau and a couple of useful downhill skiers.

Iowa circus

The media are determined not to miss a trick in America's caucus race

Even the press is beginning to admit that it has got out of control in Iowa. There are so many reporters, analysts, commentators, pollsters and television crews in this sparse, bleak state that there are hardly enough Iowans to go around. In their eagerness to feel the pulse of the nation, the media have ended up in an artificial country dubbed "Campaignland".

Caught out by Jimmy Carter's unexpected win in the Iowa caucuses in 1976, the media now dog every candidate every minute of the day. The "significance" of this first vote in the 1988 campaign has therefore risen to a

point out of all proportion to the state's size and political weight.

With 13 candidates and two contested nominations, the election is bigger than anything seen before. Iowa is making a small fortune: spending on the contest now exceeds the gross national product of a small Third World nation. Candidates have amassed about \$100 million, and 1,000 paid staff members are criss-crossing the state.

Two thousand television reporters will cover the caucuses. Half the nation's supply of "uplink" trucks — dish-topped vehicles that bounce

television signals off satellites — are expected to be in Des Moines on February 8, the day of the caucuses. "It's going to look like Mars," said Phil Roeder, spokesman of the Iowa Democratic party.

Overseas reporters have descended on Iowa in unprecedented numbers. They are

plified. On February 8, the television networks will attempt to count those attending the 2,500 meetings around the state, before the Democratic officials, in according with party rules, cancel the votes for every candidate with less than 15 per cent.

So there will be two results — and the media's count numbers will get the most attention. The media then put their "spin" on the raw figures. The candidate who did better than expected is considered the winner, and goes on to the next contest in New Hampshire with a near monopoly of press attention.

In the general uncertainty the temptation to focus on the eye-catching, the trivial and the unusual is even more pronounced. But the twin danger is that in counteracting the serious issues, the media will judge by their own impressions and not by those of the voters. Among the Democrats, former Governor Bruce Babbitt of Arizona would easily win, if the media, attracted by his freshness, lack of clichés and self-deprecating humour, had their way; but in voters' eyes he still seems firmly stuck at the bottom of the polls.

Michael Binyon

BYLINES

Housey, housey

Eyes down for a new viewing experience — television bingo. Devised by Europrint Promotions, it has added 400,000 to the weekly sale of *Télé Poche*, France's equivalent of *TV Times*. It has also done wonders for the main commercial channel, TF1, where the numbers are flashed up at the bottom of the screen during commercial breaks and viewers stand to win 200,000F (about £20,000) a week.

Any British equivalent would notionally fall foul of IBA regulations, which limit prizes to a maximum of £100 for any competition which can be won only by someone who sees the programme or commercial. But such rules were made for circumventing. A *Daily Mirror* commercial on Monday offered prizes of up to £40,000 thanks to one loophole: the winning numbers were also printed in the following day's paper.

Europrint say they will be talking to *TV Times* shortly.

Citizen Maxwell

Robert Maxwell's ambitions to run a national newspaper preceded his purchase of the *Mirror* by many years. As Labour MP for Buckingham in 1966 he tried to start a pro-Labour daily with George Brown and Bob Edwards, then editor of the *Express*. The venture, it appears from Edwards's forthcoming autobiography, *Goodbye Fleet Street*, was a "fiasco". The two men subsequently worked together again when Edwards was editing the *Sunday Mirror* at the time of Maxwell's Citizen Kane-style take-over in 1984. Will Maxwell's object to Edwards's account of their relationship? "Not if he's fair-minded," Edwards says.

Snookered

David Elstein, director of programmes at Thames TV, thinks the BBC has painted itself into a corner in its search for a managing director of network television to succeed Bill Cotton (the job earmarked for Michael Grade). An MD who reports to a deputy director-general who is also offering him programmes in his role as director of news and current affairs is in an impossible position, Elstein says. "They seem to me to have two options: to make John Birt managing director of television as well as deputy director-general, or get someone nonentity from within the BBC to do the job."

Noddy snub

A TVS documentary to be shown on Easter Sunday, *The Selling of Noddy*, does not show British television in the best of lights. For one thing it was made last April, demonstrating the difficulties re-

gional ITV companies (never mind independent producers) face getting network slots. For another it chronicles the failure of exporter Derek Parker to merchandise Enid Blyton's character in America: US toy firms will not touch characters which have no TV series tie-in, but a New York company looking for co-production finance for a Noddy cartoon from British TV drew a blank. Blyton, it seems, is considered too old-fashioned, even racist, by TV types in the UK. "It seems odd when you consider the rubbish we buy from the States," says the documentary's producer, Bob Mullan.

Music merger

Last week's Monopolies Commission approval for the merger of the record company Warners and music publisher Chappell's came despite energetic lobbying on behalf of the independent music publishers' group, IMPACT. But lobbyist Charles Miller, who co-ordinated IMPACT's evidence, is not down-hearted. Any abuse of power will be much more difficult now, he says.

Briefing

Radio Times, recognizing that it is becoming a general magazine publishing house, has been persuaded to join the Periodical Publishers' Association after holding out for more than 60 years. Until 1980, June Stiles, the newest board member at ad agency Colman RSCG & Partners, was a microbiologist at London Zoo. BBC Radio York has offended local churchmen with readings from the *Kama Sutra* on Sunday mornings...

Nick Higham

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Wells House, 79 Wells St,
London W1P 4AX.



JCR

It's sometimes very hard to find exactly what you're looking for whether it be a qualified Secretary/PA for your company or a fully fledged executive.

We at JCR have a successful track record of matching up both the people and the jobs in all fields. We are now moving on to fill the obvious gap in the market - that stepping stone into a career which has been elusive - and have created a new division under the heading of 'Non-Secretarial'.

If you are looking for that perfect person or feel you are one, please call Jane Crosthwaite or Kate Mole on 01-581 2977/2947 at Jane Crosthwaite Recruitment.

JANE CROSTHWAITE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED
21 BEAUCHAMP PLACE,
LONDON SW3
01-581 2977/2947

TRAINEE DEALERS
1st YEAR PROBABLE
£20,000

The Dollar is dropping do you buy or sell? Such decisions need to be made every minute of the day. Are you motivated by pressure with high financial remuneration. Do you have a good sales attitude and are 21-26 with a good standard of education with the desire to win?

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MARKETING MANAGER
£40K + CAR

If you have a degree or professional qualification in marketing and a proven record of success, then a large company based in Ascot is waiting to hear from you.

Also, if you are experienced and successful in OFFICE FURNITURE SALES and are ready to accept a basic of £14K with OTE £30K plus car; Send your C.V. to;

COLIN WILSON, DBS LTD,
400 LEA BRIDGE ROAD,
LONDON E10 7PY,
or phone Colin on 01-556 4885

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued from page 18

English Heritage

PERSONAL
SECRETARIES
Marketing

salary £8700 pa to £11000 pa
Stonehenge, Dover Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and Kenwood House are amongst some 400 interesting ancient monuments and historic buildings in our care.

Our Heads of Trading and Membership based in Central London need bright, well organised secretaries with plenty of initiative to carry out a range of duties. You will have a good telephone manner and be able to work under pressure and possess excellent secretarial skills.

We are looking for people with an interest in and knowledge of retail, publishing or marketing and a definite interest in our heritage.

We have a non-contributory pension scheme and generous holiday allowance and give free monument passes to all our staff. For further details and an application form please contact
Meriel Davies,
Room 223, 15-17 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1V 1AF

DIRECTOR'S
SECRETARY
£11,500p.a.

The Property Director of an international property investment/development company requires an experienced, well-educated secretary to work in luxury offices near Holborn Circus. The post is varied and interesting, you will have your own office and be responsible for dealing with all the business and travel commitments as well as certain administrative duties. In addition you will provide secretarial back up to a Property Manager. Excellent shorthand and audio-typewriting skills are essential and word processing experience would be an advantage. In addition to the salary there are many benefits, including 24 days holiday, free BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, IFSTL and LV's.

Please send your CV to:

Mrs Stephanie Durrant,
22-24 Ely Place
London EC1N 6TG
01 242 6898
No Agencies

An Advisory Role

£10,000

Super high-profile opening for a young, self-assured professional self-starter with the PR arm of this internationally-acclaimed Management Consultancy. Working as part of an innovative, closely-knit team your responsibilities will include keeping tabs on the consultants; managing busy diaries; organising meetings; getting involved in testing 'state of the art' office systems. Hectic environment offering lots of scope to demonstrate initiative. Confident typing required. Age 21-25. Call 01-400 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
in the Communications Industry

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FREEDOM
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FLEXIBILITY

Temporaries - your skills are in demand! Audio and shorthand typists, WP Operators, telephonists and typists - lots of exciting assignments plus an excellent Reed benefits package await you.

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REED employment

MULTILINGUAL
SERVICESBILINGUAL
PA/SECRETARY

Chairman/Managing Director of international marketing head quarters of Cognac House is looking for a very able PA/Secretary (27-45) with fluent French. This is an important role within a busy, young and expanding team and there is plenty of scope for personal work and the possibility of involvement in advertising, PR and marketing projects. Common sense and flexibility are vital, as well as English shorthand, audio and word processing skills. Salary area: £13,500.

01 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 9HR

THE LANSDOWNE GROUP OF COLLEGES

Comprise four leading independent colleges providing further and higher education and professional training. A vacancy exists for a

GROUP SECRETARY

who will provide Secretarial and administrative support to the Directors of Operations and Marketing.

Applicants should have at least 2 years secretarial experience, possess degree or good 'A' levels, RSA Stage III or equivalent, WP experience.

The post essentially requires someone with well-developed interpersonal skills, who can respond to people in a professional and sympathetic manner, and able to maintain a high degree of confidentiality.

Salary scale from £9,370 - £11,000

Apply in writing with CV to Jane Woolfenden
151 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0LF

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Experienced Secretary to commence mid February. Audio typing - reception - book-keeping duties for private medical practice. SW1. Suit age 24 plus with mature, reliable outlook. Good salary.

Apply now in writing with C.V. to:
BOX A73,
THE TIMES
1 Virginia Street, Wapping E1 9DD

SENIOR SECRETARY

£12,000
Partner requires 2 Senior Secs. (short-hand useful) to arrange diary, travel and meetings. Will be trained on Apricot PC. 'A' Level education preferred. Age 25+.

WP OPERATOR (WANG)

£11,000
+ Bank perks
Experience of Glossary/Merge functions necessary to work for marketing team of international Bank. Good English, typing 50wpm+ are the requirements of this busy position. Age 25-32.

ADMIN. SECRETARY

£10,500
Use your Shorthand and WP skills to assist 2 consultants in this large PR Co. Lots of research work, organising seminars, dealing with the Press and clients. An opportunity to become involved here and use your initiative.

AUDIO/VP LEGAL SECRETARY

£10,500
+ good perks
Use your legal experience and good skills to get into this commercial co. All aspects of secretarial duties covered in this interesting position. Flexible and enthusiastic approach required.

Personnel Appointments

95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4JF. Tel. 01-242 0785
(ansaphone after office hours)

CHRISTINE
WATSON LTD

3rd Floor
124 Wigmore St
London W1

PUBLISHING

To £11,000
If the world of Media appeals and you enjoy a creative environment then this is the job for you. You should have good SH/Typing, be self-motivated, have an interest in video publishing and enjoy a small company environment.

THE SQUARE MILE

£13,000
This prestigious Property Co. needs a well presented PA/Sec to assist the MD. Salary £10,000/60, a people person, discretion and diplomacy essential for this interesting job.

PA IN ADVERTISING

£14,000
Two superb opportunities have arisen within this leading W1 Co. for two bright PA/Secs. Age 22-32, excellent presentation, good skills and the social graces all a must for this involving and demanding role. To hear more call immediately.

SLOANE STREET

£13,000
If Knightsbridge, a prestigious office and a PA role sounds interesting then this position could be for you. The Co. needs a PA/Office Manager with WP and Audio, a people person who can be totally involved and help run this office. This position could take you beyond the secretarial field.

01-935 8235 (REC CONS)
Let us make our success, your success

Exhibitions
£11,000

Develop your career in the exhibitions field as you administer two major events for this Holland Park based company. Good organisational skills required plus a desire to develop the sales aspect of the role. Two years relevant experience. WP skills and an outgoing personality need. Age indicator: mid-20s-early 30s.

Senior PA/Sec
£15,000 ++

Director of a major British plc is looking for a Senior PA/Secretary with an impeccable track record which will include experience in working at director level in a large company. Shorthand and typing skills must be first class (at least 100/70). Age 33-50.

To discuss these and other current vacancies, please call
01-629 7252.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET, W.1. 01-491 7202THE LANGUAGE OF
FINANCE

£12,000 + Banking Bsns

The Corporate Finance Director of a City merchant bank urgently needs a well organised and flexible Secretary. You will be required to take charge of his daily routine - your duties will encompass normal secretarial responsibilities, including travel arrangements, administration of deals and communication with clients in their language. If you have fluent French, German or Italian, can converse easily in a second of these, have skills of 100/ 60/ WP and are aged 25-35, please telephone 588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LEGAL ADVISOR'S
SECRETARY

£12,000 + paid o'time
Greater degree of involvement for someone 24+ from legal or professional background. New Advice of Privy co also. Cric needs strong Audio/VP. Profl read legal text.

Call SUZANNE DUNPHY on
01 630 0844 or meet her at
189 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Office
Angels

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/ALL ROUNDER

For this interesting, varied position, working for a small, international trading company, you will be responsible for the smooth day to day running of the office, client liaison, assisting in the production of the accounts, plus usual secretarial duties.

A superb opportunity for a self-motivated graduate with some typing skills, keen to get on and become an essential part of the team.

Age 23+, Salary £10,000 - Regularly Reviewed

Tel: 01 370 1381 - ALISON

£11,000 PLUS BONUS

ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

So be able to assist the Company Administrator for a SW1. Applicant should be self-sufficient, punctual, flexible and confident in handling highly confidential work. Secretarial skills are required but background of administration in commercial environment very important. Skills 10/30. Age 25 - 32.

Phone 437 8476 or 734 3768

133 Oxford Street

Rec Cons

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Rosenthal

Prestigious manufacturer of porcelain and crystal has vacancies for Managers / Managers in their Concession Shops of leading department stores in London and Manchester. Successful candidates must have good proven retail experience, self motivation and enthusiasm to succeed in career. Telephone or CV to

Rosenthal Studio Hens,
5-7 Brompton Road
London SW3 1ED
Tel: 01-584 1069
or 01-584 0583

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

DIRECTORS' PA
LADIES FASHION
MANUFACTURER
WC1

Aged 25/30 with excellent secretarial and administrative skills, to work closely with Sales Director and Assistant on major accounts and generally handle sales correspondence and administration for busy sales team.

Fashion experience advantageous but self motivation and keenness to progress more important.

A varied, hectic and interesting career opportunity for the right individual, offering a good salary and excellent staff discounts.

Please apply with full CV in strictest confidence to MR. D.R. WEENER, LONDON INTERNATIONAL FASHIONS LTD, 55 ARGYLE STREET, LONDON WC1

PA TO CHIEF EXEC.

Our client, a world leader in their field, is seeking a highly competent P.A. to their Chief Executive. Based at their International H.Q., the successful candidate will be expected to deal with all aspects of corporate affairs and a considerable amount of administrative work will be required when attending to his diverse personal interests.

Applicants will have a proven senior secretarial record, a natural presence and the ability to maintain the highest of standards in a pressurised, but rewarding environment.

Skills: 100/60 (minimum) + WP
Age: 35-45
Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1R 5PE. Tel: 01-437 1564

**\$16,000
plus Bonus
and Benefits**

MacBlain Nash
WEST END
Recruitment
Consultants

SECRETARY-PROGRAMME
PLANNING
(CENTRAL LONDON)

We are seeking a Secretary to work for the Senior Manager, Programme Planning, who is responsible for Co-ordinating programme facilities and resources, accommodation and other management responsibilities in the Programme Department.

In addition to the usual Secretarial duties, requiring shorthand and typing skills of 100/50 wpm, the successful candidate will assist in the day-to-day administration of the department and become involved with the extensive liaison between Programme and Production departments and other areas in the Company.

A sound background in administration and the secretarial function is essential. Knowledge of television, whilst desirable, is considered less important than an intelligent and sensible approach.

Thames is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes all applications regardless of sex, ethnic origin and marital status.

For an application form, to be returned by no later than the closing date, Thursday 18 February 1988, please contact the Personnel Department on:

01 387 9494

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN & MARKETING COMPANY

Required for Managing Director to assist with daily running of busy office. Varied stimulating duties require secretarial, receptionist and administrative skills. Ideal opportunity for adaptable career minded person seeking challenging role. Excellent salary and conditions.

ALSO REQUIRED

Young energetic person Friday required to carry out varied duties, some reception and typing work, an opportunity for career advancement in busy stimulating environment. Suit school/college leaver.

TELEPHONE KATE COCK ON: 01 631 1434
(NO AGENCIES)

Get Into PR!

£10,000

Fantastic opening for a bright, eager, young self-starter with this West-End based, high-profile PR Consultancy. Working alongside their young, extrovert charming MD in a full support role, your responsibilities will include liaising with VIP clients, organising and attending openings, conferences, managing a busy diary, etc. Initiative, flair and excellent communication skills essential for this front-line role. Genuine prospects to get involved in all aspects of PR. Accurate (70/60) skills? Age 19+? Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

GLOBAL ANALYSIS
SYSTEMS LTD

Director's PA required within young city firm specialising in portfolio management and international research. Position necessitates a good deal of initiative, judgement and understanding of director/company's function. Successful candidate will have sound secretarial background with excellent admin and organisational skills, experienced at director level - preferably with financial/City orientation. Good salary base.

Apply, by Tue 8 Feb: Sara Lawrence,
Personnel Administrator, GAS Ltd,
1-3 Tavistock Inn, EC1A 1AU.
Tel 583 1878

WP/AUDIO SECRETARY
- LITIGATION

Watts & Partners is a progressive firm providing professional services in the property markets and the construction industry. We require an intelligent and enthusiastic secretary, with plenty of initiative and excellent WP/Audio skills, for our Litigation Department. Previous experience within a legal or surveying practice would be an asset as would a liking for detail.

A competitive salary is offered together with a staff profit share scheme, flexible working week, optional pension scheme and 4 weeks holiday.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

Marian Hladik
Watts & Partners
58 Brook Street
London W1Y 1YP

EXPERIENCED
SECRETARY

Small friendly office. Fashion co. on Regent Street near Oxford Circus tube. S/H a must. W/P experience and a second language helpful. Good attention to detail. £11,000 plus.

01 580 3686

Secretary/PA
to Managing Director

of expanding wine retailing group. For details of this exciting opening

Please send CV to Tracy Clark

Majestic Wine Warehouses Ltd
421 New Kings Road, London
SW6 4RN

ADMIN
SECRETARY/PA

Administrative Secretary/PA needed for young, small but busy Games based Design Consultants. Applicants must be numerate and have good organisational skills.

Please apply with full CV to:
Debbie Turner
D + D Design Consultants
82-84 Greville Road
Sevenoaks, London
TN13 5JJ
Tel No: 01-741 2282

RECEPTIONIST/
TYPIST

Required for prestigious Mayfair executive recruitment consultancy. Applicants should be well presented with excellent typing skills and the ability to work accurately under pressure. W/P knowledge essential. Salary: £28-9,000 pa.

Ask for Janet on:
01-491 3431

LIVELY, WELL ORGANISED
SH. SEC. IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

For young, expanding Head Office Team in Financial Services. W.P. experience preferable suit 2nd jobber. Salary c.£9,000 p.a.

Please telephone Helen on
(01) 245 1061

AMERICAN EXPRESS
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Putting your style and
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Consul Club, a prestigious membership-based business service with a European network, is looking for two career-minded people to join its small well-established London team. The Clubs provide a wide range of business, financial and travel related services to international executives and to personal leisure travellers.

This is a highly specialised area of customer service, therefore experience in dealing with VIP clients is essential. Applicants should be highly presentable, and able to work on their own initiative. Fluency in one or more European language would be an advantage.

Club Officer (up to £12,000)

You will already have several years Senior Secretarial/PA experience and be familiar with modern office systems and practices.

Secretary/Assistant
Club Officer (up to £10,000)

You will have a minimum of three years' sound secretarial experience, including the use of modern office technology. In addition, previous experience as a Receptionist would be helpful.

Both positions offer a generous salary and benefits package. Please reply, with full C.V., quoting current salary package to: Barbara Saccani, Personnel Officer, American Express Europe Ltd, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ.

EXECUTIVE/PA
BAHRAIN

Full exp terms + car. Tax free negotiable salary

We seek an experienced, level headed and exceptionally hard working executive secretary/PA. The successful candidate will work with the Managing Director of a diversified Group of Companies based in Bahrain.

Probably aged between 30 and 40 the successful candidate must be capable of organising the day to day timetable, business affairs and secretarial requirements of the Managing Director who is a Gulf Businessman. This is a multi-ethnic business environment with considerable international involvement. The group management includes a number of senior British expatriate executives.

Free furnished accommodation, car, air fares on appointment and twice a year for leave together with a negotiable tax free salary in the range of £12,000 per annum equivalent in local currency will be offered to the successful candidate.

Applicants should send a copy of their C.V. together with a covering letter explaining their particular suitability for this sensitive and demanding appointment. These should be addressed to:

P.O.Box No A17
The Times
1 Virginia Street
Wapping E1 9DD

HEAVEN SCENT

£11,500 neg

Join this world famous Cosmetic and Fragrance House as Secretary to their Managing Director. This position offers lots of variety as you handle staff recruitment, office administration and act as right hand to a very charming boss. Beautiful offices, 100/60 skills and a good knowledge of French needed.

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TO £15,000

A Specialist Design Consultancy who has some very famous consumer name clients seeks a PA/Secretary to their Director. Spectacular hi-tech offices and a very informal atmosphere. You should be a car driver, with strong organisational skills and 60 wpm audio ability.

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
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£11,000 - Hammersmith

Brand-new front-line opening for a mature, professional, motivated self-starter with this high-profile diverse Entertainment and Leisure Group. Working alongside the charming Retail Director you will be liaising closely with VIP clients etc. Lots of scope to use your initiative to define further areas of responsibility. The ability to thrive in a pressurised, fast-moving environment essential. Strong organisational flair pre-requisite. Benefits include discounted travel. Age 25-35. Skills (90/60)? Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

PA/SECRETARY

We need a go-ahead PA who genuinely wants to become involved at senior partner level. You are an experienced (probably legal) secretary with excellent skills, incl. WP who wants to work on your own initiative. We are a medium-sized and expanding City international legal practice and our senior partner has a very interesting and varied workload. Initiative and commitment are essential and will be well rewarded. Salary: £11,000 + depending on experience. Please contact: Jules Richardson (01-606 8261)

Maine-Tucker
LESS OF THE DREADED TYPING!
£11,500

This is a wonderful opportunity to do less of the dreaded typing and more of what you really want to do. Working with 2 charming businessmen in SW1 you will get immersed in everything from setting up presentations to being responsible for liaising with clients. The best person has just been promoted! Apart from impressive typing (and some audio) you need to be smart, articulate and motivated. The company has superb career prospects and the people are young, positive and fun. Age 20-28.

90 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-255 0548-9

Mayfair Elegance
£11,000 plus bonus

Excellent opportunity for a mature, outgoing and quick-thinking individual to join this prestigious, trendy young Architects practice. They are involved in commercial property design and development and you will be working alongside two of their most creative and successful London partners, organising meetings and site appointments, co-ordinating projects, managing hectic diaries, etc. Good organisational ability and a sense of humour vital. Young, very social environment. Skills (80/50)? Age 23+? Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

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SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MARKETING SECRETARY
£13,500 pa

Our client specialises in Marketing for the Oil Industry and you are likely to be a Secretary seeking a 'step up' for your next career move. This Deputy MD will use all your shorthand secretarial skills and will willingly delegate ad hoc projects such as conference organising. Large Company benefits add to this employer's already attractive environment in the City.

01-491 1868

Maine-Tucker

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£9,000 +

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A New London Skyline

£12,750 + exc package

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Recruitment Consultants

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You have a minimum of 2 years experience of recruiting staff as a personnel officer or manager, plus a positive attitude and an enthusiastic personality. As a consultant with us you will manage your own desk but have the support of your colleagues. Your energy and expertise determine your job satisfaction, career progression and salary package of £16,000 - £30,000 +.

Call Lyn Cecil on 377 8600

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

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Should you wish to 'get away' from an office based job, enjoy independence and be rewarded well for your own achievements you will still wish to work within a successful group, call

JMH on 01-225 2055.

Salary + commission + Car.

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REQUIRED FOR
INTERIOR DESIGN COMPANY.

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Bilingual PA, Arabic
Package c.£15,000

The newly-appointed General Manager of a major Arab bank, which is establishing a London presence, is seeking a mature, career-minded secretary to assist in the setting up of the new office.

The ideal candidate, whose responsibilities will include liaison with the bank's Head Office, translation and general secretarial duties, should have English and Arabic shorthand and excellent administrative skills. The ability to type in Arabic would be an advantage.

If you are interested in the above position or are considering a career move, please contact Sue Padgrift.

7 Birchlin Lane
London EC3V 9BY

01-626 2150
01-626 2092

Domestic Appointments
A member of The Domestics Group Plc

Front-Line Flair

£11,500 - Reception

Prestigious opening for an articulate, well-spoken, socially-confident and polished Receptionist with this highly-successful, fast-expanding West-End Management Consultancy. Based in their fabulous Reception area you will enjoy a richly varied role - liaising extensively with VIP clients; organising couriers offering refreshments; arranging flowers; managing the boardroom diary etc. A high-profile role requiring immaculate presentation and friendly, helpful approach. Slow accurate typing? Age 24+? Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Maine-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

RACING START!
College Leaver

This is a rare chance to join a lively, small, friendly Advertising Company in the West-End as a Junior Secretary (young only) and then to follow in your predecessor's footsteps and become a 'Trainee Account Executive'. You will be involved in absolutely everything with the Team, including learning all about the business from the word go! You must be willing to meet-in, have boundless enthusiasm, and be a flexible character. So call us and GO FOR IT!

90 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-255 0548-9

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY
FOR PA

£9,600

The Deputy Director, specialising in raising funds from commerce and industry, for this rapidly developing International Charity requires a PA to help him set up his new department. You will need to provide full secretarial and administrative support but this exciting new post promises a great many challenges and a lot of variety including maintaining client's fundraising records and carrying out some research projects.

Excellent organisational and admin. skills, initiative and the ability to work to deadlines. Good telephone manner with a high degree of tact and confidentiality at all times. At least three years relevant work experience. Typing 45 wpm, shorthand 90 wpm preferred (WP training can be given).

Season ticket loan. Four weeks holiday rising to five. Free Life Assurance and contributory Pension Scheme.

Send full CV to Catherine Kennedy,
Personnel Office, Help the Aged,
St James's Walk, LONDON EC1R 0BE.

NO AGENCIES

CONFERENCE ORGANISING

Excellent opportunity for two young people to learn the conference business. We are looking for two cheerful well groomed people, ideally to be in their early 20's who have excellent typing/WP skills. Good telephone manner essential. The successful candidates will join a busy admin team in an international firm of conference organisers based in Mayfair. Starting salary £7,500 +.

Please ring or write with CV to:

Leanne Broadbent, HR,
44 Conduit Street, London W1R 9FB.
Telephone 01 434 1017

La Crème

SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Is There Life After a Time-sheet?
Career development doesn't have to stop just because you are temping. My aim is to give you assignments that will complement your skills and broaden your experience. Come and join our great team. Call me, Amanda, as soon as you can.

01-491 1868

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!!

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Telephone Mrs Byzantine

01 222 5091

NORMA SKEMP
Personnel Services

£15,000 + BANK BENEFITS
Our City banking client is recruiting a PA for their two Managing Directors. Usual opening for candidate aged 24-30 with SH/typing skills, impeccable presentation and ideally banking experience. Very much a PA post with great deal of contact worldwide including organising on an international level.

Phone: 01 430 1551/2653
Dulcie Simpson Appointments Ltd.

Have you the Style for Tiphook?

- The Company**
A young, dynamic, rapidly expanding international group.
- The Task**
To work for one of the key people in the group's prestigious offices in central Britain.
- The Proposition**
To recruit a confident, self-assured individual with excellent typing and administrative skills, shorthand could be an advantage, to work within the Chairman's office.
- The Appointment**
An experienced secretary with style, initiative and the desire to be involved. The ideal candidate for this busy and demanding post will be between 20-26, smart and able to communicate at all levels.
- The Package**
Salary circa £10,000 p.a. contributory company pension scheme, 4 weeks holiday and excellent career prospects.
- The Challenge**
To contact us now and tell us why you have the style for Tiphook.

Call Jennifer Bowden on
01-460 6060 or write with an
up to date CV to Tiphook PLC
Lancaster House, 7 Elmfield Road
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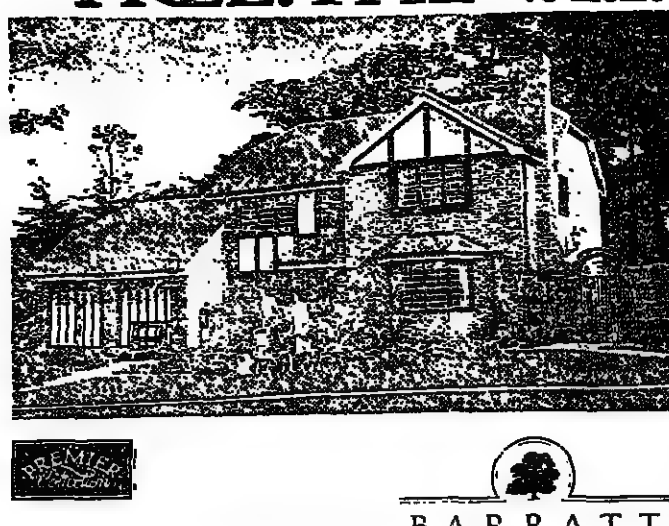
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4 0 NORMAN VALLEY 11 J H Scott 11-7 Mr L P Gussack (5)
5 0 OCHARD GLO J J O'Neill 11-7 _____ Mr J O'Neill (7)
6 0 PASSO APERTA 325 J Fowler 11-7 _____ Mr J Fowler
7 0 YOU OWN YOUR OWN 39 C Power 11-7 _____ A J Martin

15-1 Kid You Not, 4-1 Noble Fascination, Your On Your
Own, 11-2 Passo APerta, 7-1 Norman Valley, 10-1 others.

CRICKET: THE UNSUNG HERO WHO SAVED THE BICENTENNIAL TEST BY FILING IT IN A TRAY MARKED TEDDUM

Boon companion of honour

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Sydney

David Boon's unbending concentration saved a Test match yesterday, but there are those in Australia who will not thank him for it. His unbeaten 184 at Sydney spanned eight hours and was a work of cricketing heroism which, sadly, is never likely to receive full recognition.

Boon's achievement was to direct the Bicentennial Test match to stalemate. It was the only ambition open to him and he fulfilled it impeccably. At the same time he filed this match in a tray marked teddum, which has won him few friends among the new breed of Australian cricket watchers.

There are those who believe this was a party game played in a po-faced manner unsuitable to the occasion. They think the birthday spirit should have dominated the tactics, ensuring adventurous cricket and a positive result.

In essence, they say that the teams should have forgotten they were playing a Test match and indulged in a bit of fun instead. To take such a course would have insulted everyone's intelligence and degraded the basis of Test cricket.

If the match did not live up to the hype which preceded it, perhaps that is the fault of the administrators, who may have learned that scheduling a Test as a carnival event is rather like asking the Royal Shakespeare Company to play pantomime.

The MCC made a very wise decision when settling on a Test match at Lord's between two multinational invitation sides to mark their bicentenary, in hindsight, those responsible for Australia's 200th birthday party might have been better advised to do something similar.

It was not that this game had nothing to commend it. In many ways it was a classic struggle, one team achieving such supremacy that the other was obliged to dig deep into resources of technique and temperament to survive.

It was, however, one for the connoisseurs and the disapproving crowd figures showed it. The aggregate attendance of 103,831 was almost 30,000 down on the optimistic forecast and only 8,645 turned up yesterday. The two captains were aware of the dilemma but, rightly, felt unable to abandon their training in the hard school.

As Gattling said: "This was a Test match between England and Australia and we had to play it as such. That is always going to mean competitive cricket, bicentenary or not. One side was battling to save the game so it could never be the occasion people had hoped for."

Allan Border, Australia's captain, was in full agreement. "If we had got the sort of start England did on day one, then maybe we would have been a bit more aggressive on day two, but basically I would have played things exactly as they did."

Poor Gattling ended the game feeling very sorry for himself. A bout of influenza which had been troubling him for two days got the better of him and he stayed in the dressing-room wrapped in blankets after lunch.

When questioned later on his use of Dilley on Monday evening, which ensured time would be lost to bad light, he replied, perhaps a shade sheepishly: "I just did what I thought was right at the time."

In the event, his error probably had no bearing, for Boon batted throughout yesterday with such implacable assurance that all an extra 90 minutes would have achieved was to bring him a bicentenary double century.

He did not give a chance in 492 minutes' batting and earned handsome tributes from Border, who said: "I have never seen him play so well against the turning ball. If he had a weakness, that was it. But he has put in endless work on his game and today it was textbook stuff."

Boon's moustache and ample girth make him a caricature of the popular Australian image. He does not, off the field, look much like an international cricketer, during last winter's Ashes tour he seldom looked like an international cricketer on the field, either.

Apart from one painfully earned century in Adelaide, he totalled 31 runs in seven Test innings before Australia dropped him. It was a set-back which seems to have been the making of him, and since regaining his place in Sharjah in April, he has not stopped making runs. He is only 27 and there seems no reason why he should not open profitably for Australia for some years to come.

The first of only two wickets taken yesterday did not fall until 20 minutes before lunch. Marsh, who had spent four hours and a half making 56 in just the type of situation he relishes, was caught off bat and pad by Athey, giving Embury his first and only wicket of a game in which he batted 68 overs.

He will be disappointed because there was appreciable turn available, though, in fairness, the pitch grew steadily slower as the game progressed and was possibly at its least co-operative yesterday.

Dean Jones is more of a man for the match-winning chase than the purely negative innings and he did not suggest permanency. Athey dropped



Throwing the textbook at French: Boon has the last word (Photograph: Graham Morris)

him at second slip off Dilley when he had made eight but he reached only 24 before Moxon, at point, held a slashing drive off a wide Capel delivery at the second attempt.

Almost three hours remained and Australia were only just nosing ahead but England retained any thoughts of a sensational collapse they were dispelled by Border.

Chastened by his first-innings failure, which he put down to an over-aggressive attitude caused by a recent surfeit of one-day cricket, Border settled down in a manner which made it plain he was there for the duration.

England wilted at last. The final session was purely academic and play was called off after seven of the last 20 overs. This, surprisingly, was only

the fifth draw in 48 Tests between Australia and England at Sydney.

The "living legend" computer Test, however, did produce a result. Australia won by 37 runs and, fittingly, the match-winning spell came from Bill O'Reilly, who retired from reporting cricket yesterday, having occupied the same seat in the Sydney press box for 41 years.

GOLF

Youthful raiders join big league

From Patricia Davies, Boca Raton, Florida

John Laupheimer, the commissioner of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association, described it as "an invasion" and although that is an exaggeration, Britain and Europe have mustered a respectable raiding party for an assault on the US tour, starting in Florida this week.

They do not have the element of surprise on their side, for Laura Davies is the US Women's Open champion and Trish Johnson and Caroline Pierce finished first and second in the final qualifying school, Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, was fourth, so the Americans are aware that their visitors are quality players and allow themselves to be mildly impressed with their achievements so far without actually shaking in their shoes.

There are plenty of battle-hardened professionals assembling for the Mazda Classic in the luxurious surroundings of the Stonebridge Golf and Country Club in Boca Raton, north of Miami, and Miss Johnson, who recently had her 22nd birthday, commented: "The players seem to be older here. In Europe, most of the top ones are in their early or mid-twenties, but here it's a different generation. Pat Bradley looks really old."

Miss Bradley, aged 36 and based in Florida, is embarking on her fifteenth year on the tour and is not yet ready for retirement — indeed, her consistency and professionalism are virtues irrelevant foreigners should grow to appreciate. Betsy King and last season's No. 1, Ayako Okamoto, should bring hope to the invaders that they

have moved into a different league.

Not that they do not appreciate that already, Miss Davies summed it up when she said: "We're starting again. It's new for all of us, a new challenge."

Apart from a game at West Byfleet on Christmas Day, Miss Davies' golfing preparation has been limited to this past week at her father's home in South Carolina, where she shamelessly took the money from him as usual.

Supported by her brother, Tony, who carried her bag in the US Open, and has left his secure job with a seat-belt company to try the itinerant's life of a caddy, Miss Davies has her sights set on a place in the top 20, saying: "anything else would be a bonus."

Miss Johnson is also intent on a top 20 place and she has two other goals: "To win a tournament and to have a stroke average of 72.2." Like the others, she is excited and nervous, but reckoned her worst moment was already over. At an all-day seminar on Sunday, designed to teach newcomers how to speak to the ravishing media horde, Miss Johnson had to do her stuff on camera in front of her peers. "I was shaking like a leaf," this normally ebullient character confessed. "I was far worse than I've ever been on a golf course."

Nevertheless, Miss Johnson is not the type to be intimidated, and her eyes lit up at the thought of the money on offer here. The prize money of \$30,000, she said, that it would come in handy because her mother intended going on four cruises this year. "What better incentive could there be?" she said.

Bayman back to raise the curtain

By John Hennessy

Linda Bayman perpetuates an extraordinary record of consistency with her entry, announced yesterday, in the Avia Witches Foursomes, the women's traditional curtain-raiser to be played at The Berkshire from March 15 to 17.

Bayman, then Linda Denison-Pender, partnered her mother in the inaugural tournament in 1966 and has missed only two tournaments since then, disregarding the one in 1975 which had to be abandoned because of snow. Yet she is still the right side of 40.

She has won six times with four different partners and comes forward this year with yet another new ally, her tenth, in Eavan Higgins, an Irish international. Since Higgins, like Bayman, is a member of this year's British Isles Curtis Cup short list of 17, there is a strong possibility of a seventh victory for Bayman.

The entry includes all but five members of the British Isles party, of whom three, in any case, were unavailable. Jill Thornhill is the tournament's administrator and Susan Shapcott and Karen Davies are

pursuing their studies in the United States.

For the first time the Avia field includes two pairs with a combined handicap of plus three. They are the experienced Welsh players, Sharon Roberts and Vicki Thomas, a member of our victorious Curtis Cup team in 1966, and two rising players from Sussex, Karen Mitchell, aged 19, and Nicola Wray, aged 20, who used to be known as the sister of a Ryder Cup player, though their respective roles seem in the process of being reversed.

Yet, whatever the handicaps may say, the most formidable partnership should be that of Claire Hourihane, the Irish champion, and her compatriot, Mary McKenna, a previous Avia winner on three occasions. They too, were members of the team who overpowered the United States in 1966 and are also among the 17 from whom this year's team will be chosen.

The sponsors expect to raise enough money, £2,200, to hand over 10 wheelchairs to the British Sports Association for Shapcott and Karen Davies are

Welsh team will have merit on its side

By a Special Correspondent

A new order of merit system believed to be unique in the four-home counties is being introduced this summer into Welsh amateur golf.

At the end of July the positions in what will really amount to a league will play the most important part in determining the composition of the Welsh team for the international in September. The top eight will automatically be in the side and the selectors will decide on the remaining three places.

The idea was first mooted after a disappointing Welsh performance in last autumn's home internationals at Lathcote, but the exact details of how it will work were only released yesterday.

Events will be split into four categories — 18-hole Welsh British championships, 72-hole stroke-play competitions in

Wales, 36-hole tournaments and county events — and points are to be awarded in each tournament depending on the final positions.

For example, if a Welshman wins the British amateur title he will receive 100 points, while the Welsh champion gets 60 points. In some stroke-play events there will be points at stake for players down to fifteenth place. This system is similar in some ways to that adopted to choose the Ryder Cup team, the only difference being that in that case the amount of money won is the deciding factor.

Andrew Morgan, chairman of the Welsh selectors, said: "What is important about this is that everyone will start the season knowing that they have a chance to play for Wales, and this is bound to increase competition, which is good for the game."

BASKETBALL

Greece leave England a hard act to follow

By Nicholas Harling

The last thing any coach needs after the kind of performance given by England in Amsterdam last week is a game against the European champions, David Titmus is no exception.

Secretly, he probably would have wished for opponents other than Greece, even though tonight's European championship game is at Crystal Palace. Even that might not be an advantage, since so many expatriates are expected to be there, cheering the visitors.

Titmus, though, puts on a brave face. "We know we didn't show properly in Holland," he said. "We just want to put things right. There is no question that they are formidable opponents, but we have got to look forward if we are going to make a serious challenge in Europe. We know we are going in the right direction."

The squad, including Joel Moore, who missed last week's game against The Netherlands because of a back strain, will have had over two days' practice together by the time they take the court tonight. "I feel we are better prepared than last week," Titmus added.

Whatever the meticulous myth of England's organization this time, however, they will be hard pressed to stop the team that overwhelmed them by 41 points in Salonika last November. Greece had the supremely talented Nick Galis playing

then, but their guard has failed to recover from a groin strain, and the visiting team is, as Titmus acknowledges, "so deep that they will not doubt expect worthwhile contributions from everyone else." It was only after a contentious decision by the French referee that the Greeks lost their warm-up international to France, 91-50, in Evry on Sunday.

The only predicament for Titmus is whom to exclude from England's squad of 11 now that Moore is back and "certain to play if fit". On last week's form, it could be anyone. Assuming they play, Titmus will be expecting much improved displays from Gardner and Irwin, in particular.

In the unlikely event of a home victory, England would resurrect their hopes of being one of the two nations to qualify from Group A. Should they lose, England would then have to win their last two games, in Czechoslovakia and at home to the Netherlands, but they would have to beat the Dutch by 19 points in that event.

Group A table

	P	W	L	Pt
Greece	3	3	0	6
Netherlands	3	2	1	4
England	3	1	2	2
Czechoslovakia	3	0	3	0

JUDO

Question mark on Adams

By Nicholas Soames

The question hanging over the sport is: can Neil Adams really make a comeback and win the Olympic gold medal after nearly two years since his most recent contest?

This will be partially answered on Saturday, when the Olympic silver medal winner and 1981 world champion, aged 29, returns to Crystal Palace for the British national championship.

His return in the French team championship a fortnight ago indicated that he was fit if a little rusty. Adams will not find himself pitted against Paul Sheals, the courageous Manchester fighter who has since established himself as the leading light middleweight as Sheals, along with most of the British team, is training in Japan.

There are others who could give Adams a difficult time. Among them is Paul Ajala, who won the British championship in 1986 — by armlocking Sheals. Adams comes from Adams' own club, The Budokwai, and although such clear rivals would avoid sparring so close to a major tournament, neither could avoid the temptation when Adams returned for the first time after leaving his teaching job in France last week.

They practised twice, once standing (the throws of judo) and once on the ground (the armlocks, holds and strangles), and thus no one is in a better position to make an interim judgement on the condition of Adams than Ajala.

"He is exactly as I remember him — although he is perhaps a little trimmer, though he is certainly strong and very fit," said Ajala. "But he doesn't seem to have come back with anything new. He was doing all the things that he has been doing for so many years — tai-otoshi, uchimata, tomoe-nage."

However, Ajala is the first to acknowledge that Adams may have been being deliberately caged — no poker player however good can afford to show his entire hand a few days before the big day. He said: "Under the pressure of a competition he could go out and throw everybody for a loop — that wouldn't surprise me."

"But although I don't think he will have any difficulty in qualifying for the Olympics, I can't imagine that he will have it all his own way, and I don't think it is even certain that he will reach the final at the moment. I think he needs to find a good teacher to work on some new moves."

So the question marks still hang in the air. Saturday will surely provide some answer.

BOXING

Watson may be set basic lesson

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Britain's No. 7 middleweight, Michael Watson, of Islington, could steal a march on his rivals for the British title, Nigel Benn, Johnny McElhinney and James Cook, tonight at the Grand Hall, Wembley, if he beats Don Lee, of Milwaukee. Watson could move up to third place in the British rankings and even find a place among the world contenders, a smart piece of matchmaking by Mickey Duff.

Watson has had only 15 bouts (one defeat) and this will be his first 10-rounder. Lee has had 31 contests, lost two and is No. 14 in the world. Watson's top achievement as an amateur was winning the London title; Lee's was lifting the National Golden Glove title and becoming AAU champion three times.

Watson's best win as a professional was against a journeyman, Cliff Gilpin, of Telford. He beat Gilpin on points; Lee's final victory was against Tony Sibson, whom he stopped in eight rounds, after getting off the floor twice and putting the British champion down four times.

While it is true that Duff has made several matchmakings, Watson is a nagging feeling that after Dave Dent's

surprise defeat by a Mexican, Duff must be fairly certain that Lee is ready for taking. Duff is simply taking a calculated gamble it could prove an interesting learning contest for Watson.

Lee and his manager, Ronald Collison, do not give the impression that they have come here just for a big pay day — Lee is believed to be receiving a five-figure sum. Unlike many other similar imports, Lee has also brought along a trainer and has given himself time to get used to the British climate and jet-lag. Collison has even produced a comprehensive publicity pack.

On the undercard Gary Cooper (Lymington) gets another chance to win the British light-middleweight title when he meets Michael Harris, of Swansea. Cooper, who is a natural light-middle, should have too much experience at this weight for the Welshman, who three and a half years ago was a light-welterweight.

Gary Mason faces Alonzo Ratliff, of Chicago. Once a fair cruiserweight, Ratliff is on the way down, just having suffered a defeat at the hands of Magne Havna, of Denmark, and Mason should win.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker and Leng receive awards

By Jenny MacArthur

Virginia Leng and John Whitaker, two of Britain's brightest medal prospects for this year's Olympic Games, have won the 1987 Martini Awards for three-day eventing and show jumping respectively.

The awards, started by Martini 30 years ago and now embracing seven equestrian disciplines, are decided annually by readers of the Horse and Rider. Leng is on holiday in Mexico, where she celebrated her 33rd birthday yesterday, and Whitaker is on holiday in West Germany.

Both riders have had a morale-boosting pre-Olympic year. Leng won the British National Title on Nightcap in August at Gaicombe Park and the following month, again on Nightcap, retained the individual and team gold medals at the European Championships in West Germany. In June, at the inaugural Stockholm international three-day event, she was runner-up on Master Craftsman, an eight-year-old gelding who she hopes will reserve her for the Olympic Games.

The Martini Trophy was won by Robert Oliver, winner of the show jumping, and a stylish and experienced showman, won the Hunter championship on Freeway at the Royal International Horse Show.

MARTINI COURSE AWARDS: Show jumping: J. Whitaker, Horse Trials: J. Leng, Dressage: J. Henderson, Eventing: J. Whitaker, Show Jumping: R. Oliver, Endurance: J. Leng, Polo: J. Whitaker, Fencing: J. Whitaker, Badminton: J. Whitaker, Tennis: J. Whitaker, Golf: J. Whitaker, Cricket: J. Whitaker, Football: J. Whitaker, Rugby: J. Whitaker, Hockey: J. Whitaker, Basketball: J. Whitaker, Volleyball: J. Whitaker, Baseball: J. Whitaker, Softball: J. Whitaker, Ice Hockey: J. Whitaker, Figure Skating: J. Whitaker, Speed Skating: J. Whitaker, Short Track: J. Whitaker, Biathlon: J. Whitaker, Luge: J. Whitaker, Skeleton: J. Whitaker, Winter Two-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Three-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Four-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Five-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Six-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Seven-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Eight-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Nine-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Ten-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Eleven-Wheel: J. Whitaker, Winter Twelve-Wheel: J. 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FOOTBALL: DUBIOUS REWARD AWAITS WINNERS OF FOURTH-ROUND REPLAY AT MIDDLESBROUGH

Everton face a test of their character at Ayresome Park

By Ian Ross

What is arguably the most unenviable prize in English football will be up for grabs at Ayresome Park tonight when Middlesbrough entertain the champions, Everton, in an FA Cup fourth round replay.

The victors will have the dubious pleasure of playing host to the competition favourites and runaway first division leaders, Liverpool, in the fifth round.

Typically both managers, Colin Harvey, of Everton, and Bruce Rioch, of Middlesbrough, yesterday refused to be drawn over the perimeter fence of football's "one game at a time" philosophy, preferring instead to focus their attentions on an imminent battle rather than a forthcoming war.

Harvey, whose side inflicted Liverpool's solitary defeat this season in a Littlewoods Cup tie in late October, is aware that his players - somewhat fatigued after playing eight games in less than a month - will face a severe test of character this evening in front of a 30,000 crowd which will yield club record receipts of around £120,000.

"Middlesbrough are more than a useful side and I do not think that they would look out of place in the first division. They played some good football at Goodison Park and competed well. Although I had seen them play a couple of times they were, from my players' point of view, an unknown quantity. We now know what to expect; we will

be forewarned and forearmed" he said.

"We were a little bit lethargic in the first half of Saturday's game but we came back strongly at the end. There is a big prize on offer for the winners and that will act as an incentive for both sides" he added.

As expected, Harvey has named an unchanged side after learning that England's international pair, Reid and Stevens, had fully recovered from minor injuries.

Rioch is also expected to keep faith with the same line-up after Hamilton's

announcement that he was fit after overcoming a knee problem.

"The important thing from our point of view was to go to Goodison Park and give a good performance, which we did. We are a footballing side which plays to the best of our abilities within the laws of the game and if we can continue to do that we will win a lot of friends" he said.

"We already know that we have some good and talented players who can look after themselves in terms of ability in the second division and hopefully in the first division. This game is obviously important to us but it's not a choice I would rather we

gained promotion" he added.

If tonight's game ends in a draw a second replay would take place at Goodison Park next Wednesday, Everton having already won the toss of a coin to decide the venue.

If the tie is decided at Ayresome Park, Everton will play Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane in a rearranged League game on Wednesday.

Jimmy Frizzell, the general manager of Manchester City, yesterday warned his side against complacency tonight when they face third division Blackpool in a fourth round replay at Maine Road.

"Any of our players who think we only have to trot on to the pitch and trot off after 90 minutes to get the right result is in for a rude awakening because we still have a big hurdle to clear" he said.

"We have already had our bit of luck in the Cup this season because we equalized late both on Saturday at Bloomfield Road and in the previous round at Huddersfield. We have a lot of hard work to do and a lot of people will have to toil very hard if we are to go through to meet Plymouth Argyle in the next round" he added.

Mel Machin, City's team manager, has transfer-listed forward Varadi, available after his recovery from food poisoning, but Simpson is doubtful with a calf strain.

Blackpool will be without the injured Madden and the suspended Cunningham.



Ready for battle: Stevens, of Everton, who has been passed fit

Bassett signs Downes

Dave Bassett, the Sheffield United manager, has signed one of his former Wimbledon men, Wally Downes, a midfielder, to replace the injured

Paul Dwyer, who has been released by Wimbledon after making over 200 appearances. Now recovered from a broken leg, he will be a non-contract player.

The Brighton goalkeeper, Perry Digweed, has joined Chelsea on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move. Digweed, who has not played a first team game this season, despite a loan spell at Newcastle United, will be Chelsea's deputy to Roger Freeman.

Colechester United, fourth division promotion contenders, have signed the centre half, Glen Keeley, on a month's loan from Oldham Athletic. Keeley, previously with Newcastle, Ipswich Town and Blackburn Rovers - will make his debut at Layer Road, against Crewe Alexandra, on Friday night.

The Southampton manager, Chris Nicholl, has dismissed a report that he is considering moving. The manager has been under a cloud since he replaced Paul Rideout as a replacement for Danny Wallace.

Wallace, who is rated at £750,000, and whose Southampton contract expires at the end of the season, has been linked with Arsenal, while Rideout is believed to be ready to return to England after three years with the Italian club, Bari.

Nicholl said yesterday: "Rideout is one of a number of players that we have watched, but that's as far as it goes."

Boost to Leeds's morale

By Martin Searby

Despite the disappointment of a third round defeat by Aston Villa in this year's FA Cup, Leeds United are just one match away from their first appearance at Wembley for 15 years.

They need to beat Ipswich Town on Saturday to take the three points which will guarantee them a place in the Football League Centenary Festival competition as one of the four second division clubs to take the most points from 15 League matches since the beginning of November.

The complicated equation allows their recent good form to give their fervent supporters a firm date in London for the contest, which involves eight teams from the first division, and two from the third and fourth, on April 16 and 17.

The 4-1 away victory over West Bromwich Albion, and

Crystal Palace's defeat at Oldham Athletic the previous night, in this year's FA Cup, Leeds United are just one match away from their first appearance at Wembley for 15 years.

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Monaco's visit is put off

Glasgow Rangers' game against the French side, Monaco, next week has been shelved because of the further postponement of their Scottish Cup third round tie with Raith Rovers.

A waterlogged pitch at St. Mirren's, Kilmarnock, meant that the tie must now be played on Monday night (8 p.m.) - when Rangers were due to face Mark Hateley, Glen Hoddle and company at Ibrox.

The cup tie against Raith was called off for the second time in four days following torrential rain in the East of Scotland. No new date has yet been fixed for Rangers' proposed meeting with Monaco.

Birmingham City, expected to attract a 30,000 crowd for the first time for over two years, have made their FA Cup fifth round clash against Nottingham Forest an all-ticket game.

Forest are being sent an allocation of about 11,000 tickets, but have been unable to attract a crowd of more than 7,000 - the big exception being the 27,000 for the local derby against Aston Villa this season - but are pegging their prices.

Alan Ball believes Portsmouth can win the FA Cup for the first time since 1939. After defeating Sheffield United 2-1 to earn a fifth round home match with Bradford City, the Portsmouth manager said: "We can win it. For the last three years, while we were chasing promotion, I told the players to look on the Cup as a bonus. But now we're in the first division, we expect to beat teams from lower divisions."

Wim Jansen, the former Dutch international, became the eighth manager to resign from a Belgian first-division side when he left Lokeren yesterday. Jansen, who had captained the post for five months, gave no reasons.

UEFA, Europe's governing body, has banned Josef Zlof of Honved Budapest, for five matches for violent behaviour. The Hungarian club's player was sent off in the return leg of the third round UEFA Cup tie against Panathinaikos on December 12. Zlof, sent off in the same match, received a four-match ban.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

BBC spend £1.75m to cover Calgary

BBC Television will spend more than £1.75 million to bring 60 hours of exclusive coverage from the Winter Olympics in Calgary starting on Saturday week.

Jonathan Martin, Head of Sports and Events Group, says £30,000 an hour is good value with the nation willing to watch the nation's winter sports and the nation willing to watch the nation's winter sports.

"We have covered both since 1964 when the Olympics first became an electronic adventure and 60 hours coverage is the most we have ever devoted to the Winter Olympics," Martin said.

"I have to say that it is going to cost around £1.75 million because we run the risks of uncertain weather, satellites and the fact £30,000 is well in line with the average cost for television."

"We are taking 30 people to provide our coverage, whereas the Germans are taking 160, the Swiss 60, the Austrians 40 and the French 50, so we are far from being the biggest team."

"We are expecting good audiences from Calgary because of the success of Ski Sunday. Perhaps the BBC has been a bit slow to blow its own trumpet."

"Ski Sunday has consistently outperformed American Football. An audience of three million is not bad for 5.45 on a Sunday afternoon."

ATHLETICS

French provide rivalries of short sweetness

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The rivalry of Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis last summer provided a rare occasion for sprinters to enjoy popular interest over middle-distance runners. But with many of the longer race exponents attracted by the questionable pleasures of cross-country running in the winter, the ascendancy of sprinters has always been the case indoors.

The national championship a fortnight ago was a good example, with Lincoln Asquith beating Linford Christie by 0.01sec and Paula Dunn winning in the same time as Bev Kinch. This weekend's United Kingdom v France match, sponsored by Dairy Crest at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall should be the same, with the best attractions being Christie and Ernie Obregon against Bruno Marie-Rose in the 60 metres and Jon Ridgeon talking on Stephen Caristan in the hurdles.

Both Frenchmen are faster on paper, Caristan considerably more so than Ridgeon, and this should provide the British younger sprinters with a tough test of Olympic year. Caristan won the European title in Stuttgart in 1986, when Ridgeon was sixth, and the Frenchman was injured last year when Ridgeon came through for a world championship silver medal.

There was some debate whether British administrators were snubbing their guests by sending the team home after the match which would leave the French alone at the banquet offered by the City fathers. The report in *The Times* that this

decision was taken on the grounds of finance was flatly rejected.

Claims were made that British athletes, other than the locals, usually left matches immediately, although personal experience tells that such post-match banquets in Britain are usually attended by both teams.

The fact remains that there is a reduced budget for all venues this year, imposed by John Lister, the AAA treasurer, and Scottish coaches, administrators and officials were also deliberately chosen for this match, to keep down costs.

TEAM NEWS: Ben Johnson (Edinburgh), I Christie (Thames Valley), 200m: Christie, D Reid (Sharncliffe), 400m: I Christie, D Reid (Sharncliffe), 600m: A Morris (Wolverhampton) and B Stott, I Christie (Thames Valley), 800m: A Morris (Wolverhampton) and B Stott, I Christie (Thames Valley), 1000m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 1200m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 1400m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 1600m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 1800m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 2000m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 2200m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 2400m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 2600m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 2800m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 3000m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 3200m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 3400m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 3600m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 3800m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 4000m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 4200m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 4400m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 4600m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 4800m: I Christie (Thames Valley), 5000m: I 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Budd unwelcome in New Zealand minister warns

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Zola Budd got through the world cross-country championship trial on Saturday, only to have another tribulation drop at her feet yesterday. Peter Tapsell, the New Zealand Minister for Sport and Recreation, said the South African-born runner "would not be welcome" for the world championship race in Auckland on March 26.

It is a rebuke from the highest level that Budd has ever received for spending so much time in South Africa after obtaining a British passport inside 10 days almost four years ago. Tapsell said: "We do not want her here, and believe the rules should be changed to exclude all holders of passports of convenience. I shall make that quite clear when the championships are held."

"Budd's home is South Africa, she has spent eight out of the last 12 months there, and while South Africa regard her as one of their own. Her family is there, her trainer is there, even her doctor is there."

Tapsell conceded that he had no power to prevent Budd entering New Zealand, since she has a British passport and has been selected by the British athletics authorities for the five-kilometre race.

His remarks, however, are

an open invitation to anti-apartheid groups in New Zealand to have a field day. They have already threatened protests about Budd's presence. Demonstrators forced her out of the national women's cross-country championship in Birkenhead three years ago, and there was a token incursion on the course at Gateshead on Saturday.

Budd, whose fourth place in Saturday's trial assured her of an automatic British team place in Auckland, said yesterday: "I was very happy to make the team, it is up to the management now whether they want to send me or not. I am looking forward very much to going to New Zealand, because I have always admired their athletes."

British officials said yesterday that Tapsell's remarks would not make any difference to Budd's selection. Jon Wigley, for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the championships' promoter, said: "Mr Tapsell has rightly acknowledged that, according to our rules, Zola Budd cannot be prevented from entering New Zealand, and competing. Unless there is some substantial change in the interim, there will be no further action."

Tapsell also said, however:

"Despite the fact that, under IAAF rules, Budd is eligible to run, it doesn't mean the Government considers it acceptable for her to take part. The IAAF rules should be changed. The Commonwealth Games Federation has changed its rules (of residence qualifications), and other international sports federations should follow suit. I hope to make that clear when I come to London later this month."

That raises the possibility of some proposal at Government level. But since the present British Government accorded Budd a passport in the first place, there seems little that can be done, except to hope that Budd makes good her intention to stay in Britain for an extended period. Sympathy among her fellow athletes, which was quite high when she first came to Britain, seems to be running out.

Daley Thompson, in an interview with *The Times*, touched on the Budd problem. He said: "I've got to be honest, I didn't mind her at first, but I just wish she would either go or stay. If she were going to stay, then stay here for five years, and then go back to South Africa for the rest of her life. But at least stay here now, and don't make fools of everybody."

Golden eagle of the Forest



Searing talent: Nigel Clough, the Nottingham Forest forward, shakes hands with his father, Brian Clough, who manages the club, after receiving the Barclays Young Eagle Award for December from Bobby Robson, the England manager (centre), who described him as "a shining example for youngsters to follow".

Robson said of Clough, aged 21: "Forest had a marvellous month and Nigel played particularly well. His performances included a hat-trick in four minutes — one of the quickest on record. I couldn't do that and, better still, his father couldn't do it, either."

Clough, who did not play a match last month because of a hamstring injury, received an inscribed silver and a cheque for £250, which he has donated to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Robson also mentioned Des Walker, the Forest defender, and Franz Carr, the winger, as being among a batch of exciting youngsters coming through. Last weekend Robson spent a few days in his native North East, where he watched Paul Gascoigne, Newcastle's highly rated midfielder. "He's got tremendous potential. If he can just harness his talent in the right way he will have the world at his feet."

Foster on injury list again

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne

Neil Foster, the England seam bowler, sees a specialist here today amid growing concern over a recurring injury to his left knee. Foster was England's most impressive bowler in the Bicentennial Test which ended yesterday.

Mickey Stewart, the team manager, said: "This is an old injury which we were all confident he had put behind him. We gave him a test in the nets before coming away and received the all-clear. But in the course of this match, the knee has become very stiff."

The Australian selectors yesterday recalled Simon Davis and Michael Whitney, both fast bowlers, to their squad of 12 players for the one-day international (AP reports). They replace Craig McDermott and Merv Hughes.

SQUAD: A R Border (captain), D C Boon, G A Marsh, D M Jones, M R J Waugh, S R Davis, P L Siddle, G C Dyer, P R Shepp, P L Taylor and M R Whitney.

Test match report, page 42

Trainer stands by embattled Sibson

Ken Squires, the trainer, will not desert Tony Sibson on Sunday despite the fact that the ban both men face for taking the 15-round world title bout with Frank Tate, of the United States, will have more serious implications for him than for his boxer.

Sibson's challenge to the IBF middleweight champion has incurred the displeasure of the British Board of Control because it is over 15 rounds. It is allowing only 12-round contests on medical grounds.

With disciplinary action hanging over everybody involved at Stafford's Bingley Hall on Sunday, there is talk of legal action being taken against the board and even a breakaway body being formed.

Sibson says the controversy is affecting his training. Win or lose, however, the Leicester boxer will probably give up his British and Commonwealth titles.

But Squires is both a trainer and a manager and is worried by the board's threat. "My first duty is to Tony, though,"

he said. "I've been with him for 12 years and he needs people in his corner he can trust."

"I just can't turn round to him and say 'Good luck, but I'm not going to be in there with you'. What am I supposed to do? The fight has been organized and I am Tony's trainer. I've asked the Midlands Area Council to help me if they can."

Tate, meanwhile, can concentrate solely on the task in hand. He and his manager, Jesse Reid, are convinced that a 15-rounder improves their chances.

"It's the test of a true champion," Reid said. "If you are a true athlete, the three extra rounds make no difference. It helps to find out who is in the greatest condition."

Tate, unbeaten in 21 professional contests and last beaten as an amateur six years ago, added: "I don't think it will go the distance, but if it does Sibson will take a beating."

Match day ticket sales ban request

By John Goodbody

The British Government is to put pressure on the German authorities not to sell any tickets on the day of the matches of the European football championship finals in June as part of the policy to counter hooliganism.

A working party is being set up consisting of the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office, the Department of the Environment, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the British Transport Police and the football authorities to plan for the championships.

Its first meeting will take place later this month, and one of the Government's first tasks will be to persuade the West German organizers not to sell any tickets on the day of the games.

The final decision on whether English clubs should be readmitted to the European competitions is only likely to be made after the championships, the first real test of English supporters abroad since the Heysel stadium disaster in May 1985.

Hermann Neuburger, the president of the organizing committee, told *The Times* last March that if the Football Association warned him of the possibility of trouble, the organizing committee would refuse to sell any tickets on the day of those games in which England were involved.

There is a possibility that tickets may be sold on match days with the recipients being monitored, a similar procedure to that used for England's friendly against West Germany last September.

All tickets for England supporters will be distributed through the Football Association. Twenty per cent will go to each of the eight participating nations in the preliminary round.

England dines out as Wales decide his fate

By Clive White

be renewed when it expires in July.

Whether or not England has been retained as manager, it seems likely that the FA of Wales, with their financial reserves now down to £50,000, have chosen to downgrade the job still further, from a part-time post to a match-to-match contract.

If England has gone it will be interesting to hear how the council members propose to replace him. Unless they have someone in mind who is presently unattached, it is difficult to see how any of the possible candidates, like John Toshack or Brian Clough, could combine club duties with those of an international manager, however part-time the job may be.

Refusal to release the likes of Mark Hughes, the Welsh forward, for a friendly is one thing, but for a manager not to be able to attend a game would be to make an even greater mockery of the post.

If Swansea City have decided that Terry Yorath cannot manage Swansea and Wales at the same time why should the likes of Nottingham Forest or Real Sociedad decide otherwise?

In some ways the FA of Wales are fortunate to have someone as committed, respected (at least by the players) and available as England. The honour of managing Wales has always been the only consideration as far as England is concerned and he has even accepted the humiliation of pay-cuts to keep that honour. The last time his contract came up for renewal, two years ago, he agreed to take a massive salary cut when the FA of Wales — again following reports that England was to be dismissed — reduced his £23,000 full-time job to a £10,000 part-time role.

England said last night: "If there was someone who I thought could do the job better than me, I'd be the first to hold up my hand. The players have backed me 100 per cent and you cannot ask for more than that."

While popularity among players does not guarantee success, England certainly does not appear to have been harmed by it. His record of 22 victories, 16 draws and 18 defeats compares favourably with any manager in Wales's history. Perhaps England, who has narrowly failed to steer Wales into the last four major finals, has become a victim of the optimism he inspired.

"I am more concerned with our away matches. Yet someone like me is very good. We had 2,000 fans at Ipswich on New Year's Day. There was no trouble and the police were pleased with the behaviour of our supporters."

Burr said: "The initial approach came from us. Mr Stalker's name was the first to come to our minds. He has wide experience of the subject of crowd control and handling big matches from his time in

Manchester."

Stalker, who lives in Cheshire, will visit the club to give advice, both on big matches and on dealing with community affairs.

Burr, aged 64, a financial consultant and lifelong football supporter, said that he had long been convinced that the alternatives for small clubs were either to be involved with property speculators or to be linked with local sponsorship. Millwall has a four-year sponsorship from Lewisham Borough Council worth a total of £280,000.

Burr said: "We have no worries about games at The Den. We have had no trouble there for two seasons and our discipline on the pitch has improved dramatically."

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Stalker links up with Millwall

By John Goodbody

Manchester.

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Castle falls to Whitchello in straight sets

Andrew Castle, the British No. 1, suffered a straight-sets defeat at the hands of Richard Whitchello in the second round of the men's indoor satellite tournament at Queen's Club yesterday.

Whitchello, ranked 15 in Britain and 489 places below Castle on the world computer, dismissed Castle 6-3, 6-4, in 86 minutes.

Whitchello said: "I have been working hard at my all-round game, both at Bisham Abbey and abroad, and am looking forward to as much tournament practice as possible."

Bill Scanlon, the No.2 seed, came through his match against David Felgate 6-3, 6-4. Two other seeds, Stefan Bonneau (Canada) and Mark Kratzman (Australia), both came through and now meet.

"I do not know whether I will be coming to India again," he finished. "I don't think that far ahead. But it is my ambition to give my best for West Indies cricket and I will continue to do so to the best of my ability."

Hooper, aged 21, was the revelation of the tour. His mature all-round play belied his age and lack of experience. He finished second in the Test batting averages — behind Richards — and topped the corresponding tables in the one-day matches.

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When asked how Test cricket compared with the one-day game, Richards said: "One-day cricket is like fast food. Nobody wants to cook. They want quick results. But Test cricket is the real thing. He warned that the administrators of the game must do something to make Test cricket more interesting so that it could attract crowds."

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Richards praises a limited success

From Javed Akhtar
Bombay

Vivian Richards, the West Indies captain, described his team's tour of India as a "mini-success" as the players left for home early this week after spending more than four months in the subcontinent.

The West Indians defeated an Indian XI by nine runs in a limited-overs match at the Brabourne stadium, in Bombay, on Sunday to sign off on a winning note. The match, which was held to commemorate the centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Indian Prime Minister, was taken seriously in spite of the heavy tour.

Talking to the Press after the match, Richards said he was satisfied with the overall performance of his team after the initial disappointment of the Reliance Cup, when they failed to make the semi-finals of the World Cup for the first time.

"I am pleased with the team's performance. We drew the Test series 1-1 and won the one-day series 6-1. The showing in the one-day matches has really been heartening after the bad show in the Reliance Cup," Richards said.

He added that it would be impossible to talk of the gains of the team because a team's strengths and weaknesses can be judged only over a period of time, but he was happy with the way the players were shaping up. The West Indies have Pakistan visiting them in March, and they then embark on a full tour of England this summer.

Nevertheless, he singled out Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh, both fast bowlers, and batsmen Carl Hooper, Augustine Logie and Philip Simmons, for special praise for their outstanding performances during the tour.



Richards: Happy with team

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